

NEWS ROUNDUP

Doctors likely to get phased rise

A double-figure pay increase for family doctors could fall foul of the Government's determination to defuse a threatened wages explosion (Nicholas Wood writes).

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has received the report from the doctors' review body, which could recommend rises of up to 18 per cent as a result of pricing a new performance-related contract for 25,000 GPs. However, ministers appear likely to respond by phasing in the award to avoid fueling the ambulance dispute.

With more than 100,000 health service ancillaries ready for their pay negotiations, ministers will be particularly anxious to lower expectations.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, has disclosed that GPs with lists of 2,500 patients fulfilling the new contracts, which place a greater emphasis on preventive health, could expect increases of about 10 per cent, depending on the review body's pricing. An extra 8 per cent for inflation would suggest a maximum rise of 18 per cent.

Pollution protest

Parents and teachers concerned about reports of high levels of a cancer-linked chemical in playing fields close to a school organized a boycott that kept 230 children away from classes yesterday (David Sapsford writes). The parents, including the headmaster, of the Ysgol Dewi Sant junior school at Llanelli, Dyfed, are demanding an official investigation into the alleged pollution. Other children were kept away from the Penygaer primary school near by.

Stalker claims 'wrong'

The former Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Sir John Hermon, last night denied there was a conspiracy to remove Mr John Stalker from his "shoot-to-kill" inquiry. He said that a document, which the former Greater Manchester deputy chief constable believes may be a minute of a meeting at which it was decided to withdraw him, appeared to be based on a personal memorandum in an official engagement diary which he (Sir John) kept.

1,200 electronics jobs

A leading Japanese electronics company has decided to establish its first manufacturing plant in Britain, creating up to 1,200 jobs (Peter Davenport writes). It was disclosed last night that the Pioneer Electronic Corporation is to invest more than £20 million on a factory near the M62 at Whitwood Common, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, to manufacture compact disc players. Construction is due to start in April with completion of the first phase a year later.

Collision on Thames

The Port of London Authority, which tightened navigation procedures after the Marchioness tragedy last August, is investigating a night-time collision involving another vessel on the Thames (David Sapsford writes). A party of 150 teachers was on the pleasure boat Mayflower Garden when it came into berth at Berthalls Wharf on the Isle of Dogs last week. As it approached the dock, it received a glancing blow on its side from a barge heading downstream.

Irish 'ignorant' on EC

A survey of secondary school children in the Republic of Ireland showed a "shocking" level of ignorance about the European Community, according to the organizers, the National Youth Council. The questionnaire, in the first month of the country's presidency of the EC, found only 12 per cent could name the member states and only 22 per cent knew where its institutions were. The pupils also believed the British were the least honest and intelligent members.

'Mad cow' disease

Breeders count the cost of export ban

By Paul Wilkinson

British cattle breeders were yesterday assessing the impact of restrictions on live exports to Europe intended to prevent "mad cow" disease spreading to the Continent.

It is expected to cost the industry about £10 million a year in lost business in a market British producers had been looking to expand after a period of stagnation.

But British farmers, by tradition and through experience, a phlegmatic breed, have generally diversified enough not to be devastated by the ban which forbids exports of cattle more than six months old.

Mr John Moffitt, who is a council member of the Holstein and Friesian Society and runs a herd near Hexham, Northumbria, believed pedigree sales would not be seriously affected by the ban.

"Most of our exports are of calves under six months old and I have to say our trade with Europe has not been as great as it was, although it is building up."

He was fearful that "alarmist headlines" might threaten other markets.

One of the largest cattle exporting firms, Stanford Livestock International, based near Salisbury in Wiltshire, estimated the ban would cost it around £200,000 a year. "It is devastating," Mr Richard Beale, a director, said. "A lot of people have put in a lot of effort building up a market in Europe and now that has all gone for a ball of chalk."

"We are safe enough as we export worldwide, but it is a disastrous business."

"What is worrying is the knock-on effect on all sorts of people, like the hauliers. We live in fear and trepidation of the domino effect. It is all so distressful at a time when there is a world shortage of prime cattle."

"It makes you wonder if someone is playing a game with the beef market. It has all come at a time when suddenly the whole of Eastern Europe has been opened up, yet Britain is being excluded."

"This problem was known

about as far back as 1982, but there seemed little attempt to do anything about it until it was too late."

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Leaked report criticizes policing at Wapping

By Stewart Tandler
Crime Correspondent

Details of a confidential and highly critical police report on Scotland Yard's policing of the controversial demonstration outside News International's Wapping plant three years ago were revealed yesterday.

The report, by a team of officers from Northampton, criticizes all ranks, including the senior officers on duty, for their roles in the night's events which ended with 300 injured and led to exchanges in the Commons.

The report says police were out of control in a deployment described as violent and undisciplined.

Both the Metropolitan Police and Northampton police were silent yesterday on the leaked report, but

Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, repeated trade union calls for a public inquiry into the handling of the demonstration.

Mr Michael Bennett, chairman of the London branch of the Police Federation, described the leak as a disgrace and the report as naive.

The demonstration was also a testing ground for the police's Territorial Support Groups (TSGs), which were promoted as a new, well-trained and disciplined group equipped to deal with outbreaks of public disorder.

The report, which was leaked to BBC TV News, was prepared under the command of Chief Supt David Wryko, who was called in by the Police Complaints Authority and Scotland Yard to investigate allegations

about police handling of the demonstration.

Meanwhile, 25 current and former London officers have been charged with offences linked to the demonstration, and 18 of them are due at Bow Street magistrates' court today on remand. Furthermore, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Allan Green, QC, is to appeal to the House of Lords against the High Court's decision to halt criminal proceedings against another seven officers charged in relation to the demonstration (six for conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, and the seventh with unlawful wounding).

According to the BBC, the report says that when disorder broke out at Wapping, "no person could be considered to be in effective com-

mand and control". Many of the TSG operations became "seemingly undisciplined and uncontrolled actions, often involving the indiscriminate use of truncheons". Some members of the TSGs "appeared to be lacking both adequate supervision and self-control".

TSG officers and members of the City of London police were sent into a park where a rally had been held. The area was in darkness and little could be proved, said the report, but "what evidence does exist shows the deployment was both violent and undisciplined in nature".

The Metropolitan Police's own operations manual was breached. The use of horses was not unreasonable, the report says, but the crowd was not warned. It says that this

"seriously aggravated large sections of the crowd who had previously been passive onlookers. They regarded the unexpected tactic as provocative and dangerous ... an effective warning may well have caused many to disperse".

The report was completed and sent to London only a few weeks ago and yesterday a search had begun for the source of the leak. The Police Complaints Authority (PCA) said yesterday that reports were never published in full but a resumed might be published. The Wapping report had been under consideration for such a resume, but there were problems because cases were sub judice. Now the PCA hoped to publish details of the report within the next two or three weeks.

Clarke sees ambulance crew's fight for man's life

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, was heckled by university students as he watched ambulance men fight to save a dying man yesterday.

Mr Clarke, who was in Northumbria filming with a Channel 4 television crew, was said to be "grin-faced" during the incident at Newcastle University when paramedics fought without success to revive the man who was believed to be a university staff member. Mr Clarke selected Northumbria to do this filming. He has been quoted as saying we are the model for the rest of the country and that we are the best. We agree with him."

He denied union claims that Mr Clarke had not talked to "real ambulance men".

Miss Gill Hale, regional secretary for the health service union Cosh, said: "Nobody has ever been on strike in the Northumbria service. What happened is that Mr Caple locked crews out of their stations".

Mr Clarke's visit took place as crews in Greater Manchester took part in an unofficial 24-hour strike in support of their claim for an improvement in the pay offer. Emergency calls were being diverted to a police control unit served by 34 police vans.

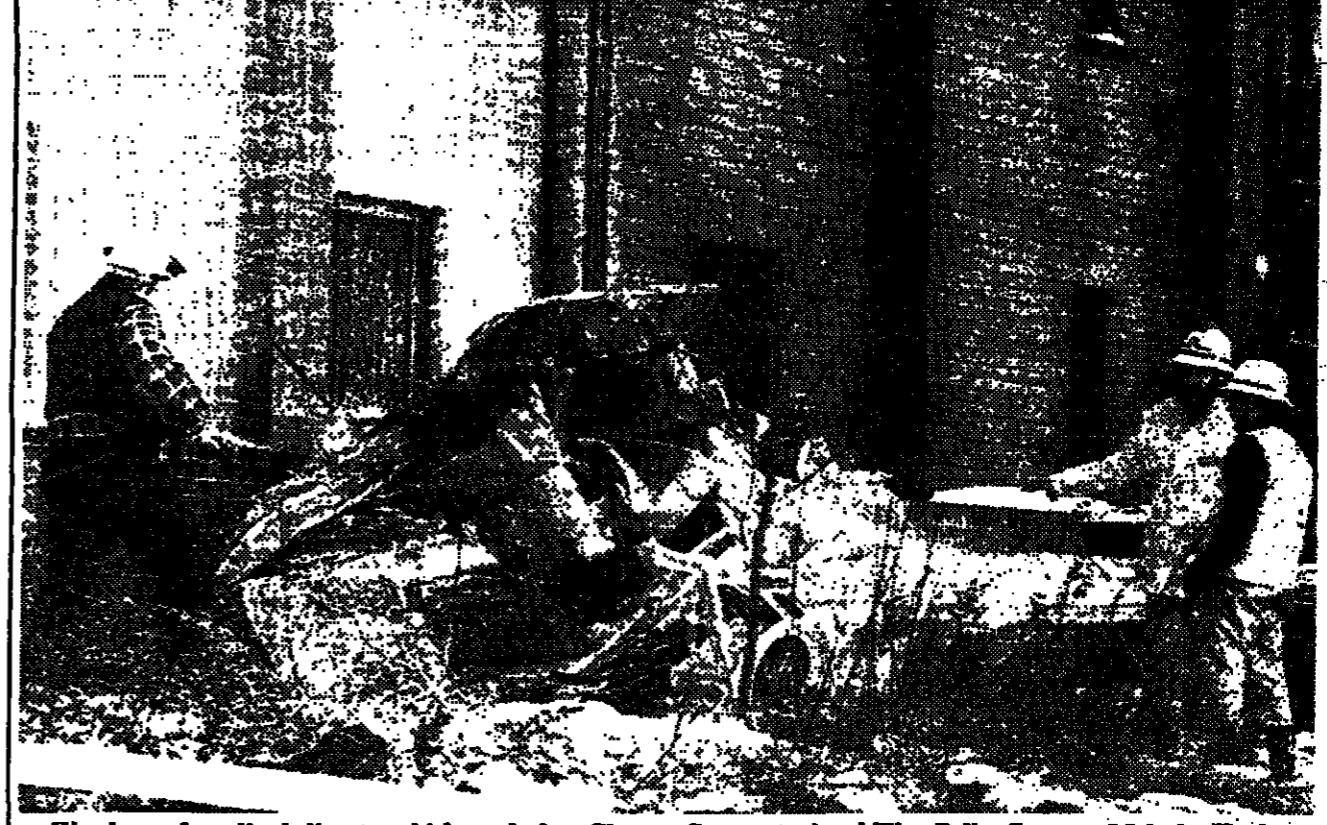
The union said that a poll of 1,000 people in the Greater Manchester showed that 98 per cent supported their claim. Two Cheshire ambulance stations, in Warrington and Winsford, also began a 24-hour unofficial strike.

In Essex, crews who say that they have been prevented from operating a 999 emergency service because insurance cover has been withdrawn, confirmed that some members had been called back for a return to work because of financial hardship and emotional strain.

Mr Clarke: No more money for ambulance dispute.

Policeman killed in helicopter

FRANK BRADFORD



Wreckage of a police helicopter which crashed on Glasgow flats yesterday, killing Police Sergeant Malcolm Herd.

Kinnock emphasizes caution

Labour 'to replace poll tax'

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday confirmed Labour's intention to replace the poll tax with an alternative based on ability to pay.

At a meeting of the national executive, however, the Labour leader emphasized the caution with which he and his colleagues were approaching the unveiling of one of the most sensitive policies still to be decided by the party.

As about 30 of his left-wing MPs indicated backing for the national campaign against payment of the poll tax, in defiance of the leadership, Mr Kinnock said of discussions on Labour's alternative: "It is more important to get it right than to do it quickly."

Mr Bryan Gould and Mr David Blunkett, Labour's environment spokesmen, are drawing up plans for a property tax levied according to ability to pay; people would be assessed on the capital value of their homes and their bills

adjusted to take account of income.

The broad principles underlying the policy are to be outlined next month at Labour's local government conference, but details will not emerge for several months.

Labour wants to avoid the difficulties which attended the publication of the abandoned plan for a property tax combined with a local income tax, which some MPs felt had come forward prematurely.

They want to concentrate their fire on the poll tax, rather than subject themselves to an attack by Conservatives on their alternative.

Yesterday's NEC meeting, as expected, gave the final go-ahead to the Birkenhead inquiry into the Militant Tendency and Mr Frank Field's deselection.

Militant last night said the decision was a victory for the millionaire press and Frank Field's careerist aims but a

defeat for the unemployed, the homeless and poll tax victims who desperately need a Labour government".

It said Militant had nothing to hide about socialist policies whereas Mr Field "has a record of class collaboration with the Tories smothered in a fog of lies against socialists".

The NEC also decided to lay charges against five members of the Glasgow Pollok Labour Party — Margaret Dick, Kirsten Walker, Lynn Sheridan, William Bill and George McNeilage — alleging membership of Militant. If proved they will be expelled.

It is to take similar action against Mr Bob Wylie, a member of the Glasgow Central party, who is believed to be one of Militant's leading Scottish organizers.

In addition a fresh selection process is to take place in St Helens South, where the MP Mr Gerry Birmingham was deselected last October.

Mackay writes to Pickles

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Judge Pickles, the controversial circuit judge, has been asked by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, to explain his comments last Friday when he denounced Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice as a "dinosaur".

Lord Mackay has written to the judge after examining reports of Judge Pickles' remarks at an impromptu press conference in a public house in West Yorkshire.

Apart from his description of the Lord Chief Justice as an "ancient dinosaur living in the wrong age", Judge Pickles talked about his decision to imprison a young mother and her three-month-old baby for three months.

The prison term was replaced by a probation order by the Court of Appeal, presided over by Lord Lane, earlier last week.

Depending on what Judge Pickles' explanation is, the Lord Chancellor will decide what, if any, action is necessary. One possibility is a reprimand. The Lord Chancellor also has power to dismiss a circuit judge for misbehaviour.

An official in the Lord Chancellor's Department said that Judge Pickles gave an undertaking to Lord Mackay last year not to discuss his judicial decisions publicly.

CONNECTION

Our report (November 20) of the lease of 57 Mansell Street, Aldgate, to insurance brokers J Basso Ltd said the entire property had been let at a record level of £43 a square foot. In fact, the property was valued for letting by the landlord's agents at that figure, and the average rate per square foot on the agreed rental was £3.80.

Saying The Times overseas
Canada \$2.75; Australia \$2.75;
Cyprus 90 cents; Denmark Dkr 14.00;
Finland 14.00; France F 10.00;
Germany DM 10.00; Holland G 5.00; Israel
Sheqel 240; Ireland 5.00; Italy 12.00;
Japan Y 220; Luxembourg 12.00;
Netherlands 12.00; Norway Kr 14.00;
Spain Peseta 220; Sweden Kr 22.00;
Switzerland S Frs 3.50;
United States \$ 2.50.

Leading article, page 13

Ferranti deal

Takeover was key to European radar contract

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

The Government was urged last night to make a statement to MPs on the £310 million purchase of Ferranti's defence systems by GEC and in particular its effect on jobs and competition policy (Richard Ford writes). The Labour Party demanded details from Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and

Industry, on the Government's role in the deal. The Opposition is particularly concerned that the sale could result in work scheduled for Edinburgh going to a GEC Marconi subsidiary in West Germany, resulting in a loss of jobs in Scotland. Mr Douglas Henderson, an Opposition spokesman, said that despite

cuts in defence spending this project could not be seen to be a runaway expense.

Senior executives at GEC-Marconi, the company involved in the alternative radar bid with West Germany's Daimler-Benz, told Ferranti that it would not lose out completely if its ECR-90 were rejected in favour of the rival MSD-2000 radar. Ironically, GEC made it clear it would have no choice but to offer Ferranti sub-contract work on the MSD-2000, in order to meet the 44-month deadline.

The ministry also knew that, if the takeover went ahead, Bonn would be happier about the radar contract going to Ferranti. But Lord

Weinstock, the managing director of GEC, who had held many discussions with his counterpart at Ferranti, Sir Derek Alun-Jones, waited to make his final move until after the rival £200 million bid from Thomson-CSF, the French defence company, had been rejected.

Lord Weinstock, too, had offered to go to £310 million when Sir Derek offered, as an extra incentive, to sell him the Ferranti Italia Group. Bonn had on a number of occasions agreed that the ECR-90 was the better radar. The only real objection was to Ferranti's financial status. So West German objections to the Ferranti radar were dropped once the German defence minister realized that the company's financial problems had been resolved.

If the development work goes beyond the 44-month deadline, the company will have to pay all additional costs.

RADIO 4

Times crossword celebrates 60th birthday with feast of a puzzle

By Mark Souter

Next Thursday marks the 60th birthday of *The Times* crossword puzzle, widely acknowledged to be the most famous, or perhaps infamous, in the world.

Since 1930, the puzzle has become an indispensable if frustrating, start to the day for many thousands of enthusiasts. The term "addict" is frowned upon, although as Mr John Grant, the crossword editor, said: "Addiction is not essential, but it helps."

To mark the occasion, *The Times* is producing the Diamond Jubilee Puzzle, a feast of clues to test even the most astute intellect. It will be in five

sections and published on consecutive days beginning on Monday. First prize is £1,000 and a holiday to India.

The scale of the puzzle is mind-boggling. It is the size of nine ordinary crosswords, which themselves take many hours to compile. It has 208 clues and two 45-letter phrases as answers to clues which interlock the individual grids.

Mr Grant said: "For a *Times* puzzle, it is hard. It will not unlock its secrets easily."

The compiler, a university teacher in a department of psychology, whose identity must remain a secret, spent much of

Christmas producing his masterpiece. His wife, who, he confesses, is a "crossword widow", said: "I must be the only wife who is woken in the middle of the night by a husband saying: 'Can I try a clue on you?'"

Where does one begin to produce the ultimate crossword? Our compiler, who occasionally uses the pseudonym Virgilius, after an ancient Irish monk who, to wile away the time made up acrostics, the forerunner to the crossword, started by blanking in a regular pattern of squares, adding in as necessary. There was no grid.

It was a case of making it up as he went

along, being careful to maintain symmetry and avoid getting bogged down in a corner.

He is particularly pleased with the two 45-letter phrases which interlock the nine grids. One of them, about Winnie the Pooh, he found "pure serendipity". Otherwise it was a case of head down and work as fast as possible.

He produces one ordinary puzzle for *The Times* each week and has done for the past 15 years.

"*The Times* is the best crossword," he said. "It is the one I would do myself through choice. It is considerably more interesting than the others among daily

newspapers." One of the most famous solvers of *The Times* crossword is Sir John Gielgud, still an enthusiast at the age of 85. He started in 1944 when a stage hand at the Haymarket Theatre staggered him by his crossword expertise.

Sir John said: "Since that time I have found the crosswords a sovereign therapy during endless hours of waiting about while filming and during

television."

The first crossword appeared on February 1, 1930. In 1933, there was

much correspondence in *The Times* about how quickly the puzzle could be completed. Sir Austen Chamberlain, the conservative statesman, wrote that the then Provost of Eton boiled his egg at breakfast during the time it took him to complete the puzzle. And he did not like hardboiled eggs.

That elicited the following response from a Yorkshireman: "I had hoped... that boiling an egg might help. I started at 8am and it is now 15.05 and the egg has burst."

According to the *Guinness Book of Records*, Mr Roy Dean, of Bromley, Kent, holds the record for the fastest completed *Times* crossword: three minutes 45 seconds, a feat achieved in 1970.

Editor blames rival who said too much for Bordes scandal

Mr Andrew Neil, the editor of *The Sunday Times* told a libel jury yesterday that the editor of *The Observer* had tried to woo Miss Pamela Bordes away from him.

Mr Neil said the rival editor, Mr Donald Treford, "could not keep his mouth shut", sealing Mr Neil's fate as a "victim of circumstance" once Miss Bordes was exposed as a prostitute. The fact that two editors had been chasing the former Commons researcher was "too good a story to miss".

Mr Neil is suing *The Sunday Telegraph* and its former editor, Mr Peregrine Worsthorne, over two articles and a cartoon which he claims implied he knew Miss Bordes was a prostitute at the time of their four-month relationship.

The court was told yesterday that Mr Neil had discussed inviting Mr Worsthorne to join *The Sunday Times* after he was removed as editor of *The Sunday Telegraph* last year, but the talks came to nothing.

Earlier, Mr Patrick Milmo, QC, for *The Sunday Telegraph*, referred to Mr Worsthorne's article which said Mr Neil and Mr Treford were known as "Randy Andy" and "Dirty Don".

Mr Neil said the nicknames were "neither accurate nor dignified", but such coverage was inevitable, given Mr Treford's public comments about the Bordes affair. "Mr Treford, unlike myself, can't keep his mouth shut."

Mr Milmo asked: "So this was all Donald Treford's fault?"

Mr Neil: "Obviously."

Mr Milmo went on to refer to a diary item in the London Evening Standard which said Miss Bordes liked Mr Neil to jump around doing gorilla impersonations.

Mr Neil said it was not unknown for newspaper editors to attempt to make fun of him. "That is the price you pay for being editor of a well-known newspaper. Mr Worsthorne has suffered from that sort of coverage, too. Fleet Street is often a dog eats dog world."

Mr Neil agreed that, with hindsight, it was unfortunate he had gone out with Miss Bordes, but he said he thought it

would be wrong knowingly to go out with a prostitute.

Mr Milmo pointed to a reference in Mr Worsthorne's article to the 1963 leader by Sir William Haley, editor of *The Times*, saying the Profumo scandal could not be shrugged off as a question of security but affected the moral status of the nation.

Was it not a point of view that Mr Neil was not in a position to write an objective leader on any aspect of the Borders affair?

Mr Neil replied that there was no parallel between his behaviour and that of Profumo: "That was a moral issue – in his adultery and lying."

Mr Neil said that a few days after the article, Mr Worsthorne was removed as editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, where he remains editor of the opinion section.

Mr Neil said there were discussions about whether Mr Worsthorne should join *The Sunday Times* staff, and Mr Worsthorne had said he would consider joining the paper, but they came to nothing. "I had a terrible foreboding about having him after this article, but I felt the competitive position of *The Sunday Times* was more important than what he had done, so there were discussions, but they never reached fruition," Mr Neil said, adding, "rather relieved".

Opening the defence case, Mr Milmo said it was unusual to find two newspaper editors locked in legal combat.

The ironic feature was that Times Newspapers, which was bringing the action with Mr Neil, was in the European Court claiming that the libel laws on which they were relying were a restriction upon freedom of expression.

The strangest thing of all was that Mr Neil was attacking another editor for exercising the right to comment and criticize on matters of public interest and on the conduct of persons who occupy positions of importance and prominence in public life.

Mr Milmo said: "Firing the gun is a great deal more than being the target. But editors are a legitimate target."

The case continues today.

He had not acted irresponsibly and self-indulgently in having an affair with Miss Bordes. "The logic of that view is that I should not go out with anyone in case their past comes back to haunt me. I should stay at home every night and do my knitting."

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Armed raiders loot country mansion



Dropmore House, in Buckinghamshire, the English mansion owned by Mr Muhammad Mahdi al-Tajir, which was burgled by armed robbers on Tuesday. Mr Muhammad Mahdi al-Tajir, a former United Arab Emirates ambassador (left), and Mr Khalid al-Tajir, his son, with their collection of gold and silver.

By Ruth Gledhill and Stewart Tindall

A gang of armed robbers has stolen more than £1 million in gold, art treasures, and other valuables after taking over the English country mansion of an immensely wealthy Arab businessman and breaking into a strong-room on Tuesday night.

Four hooded gunmen handcuffed the caretaker of Dropmore House, near Burnham, Buckinghamshire, and held the man and his wife at gunpoint for more than 10 hours while they carried out the robbery. The police said it was run like "a well-planned military operation".

The house, a late 18th-century mansion, is owned by Mr Muhammad Mahdi al-Tajir, a former ambassador for the United Arab Emirates and reputedly one of the richest men in the world, whose wealth is estimated at \$2 billion. Neighbours said the house had recently been put on sale for £12 million.

Yesterday Dropmore House was shatnered and guarded by police while explosives experts sifted the remains of what had been a strong-room and agents for the owner began an inventory of the house to discover what had been taken. Mr al-Tajir has requested no publicity on the value of the haul.

Police said last night that the robbers seemed to have ignored valuables such as paintings and a jade collection and concentrated on the strong-room and its safe. They think the gang may have been hoping to steal Mr al-Tajir's silver collection which is at Christie's in London.

Mr al-Tajir has not visited the house for many months. Often a controversial figure in diplomatic circles, he came to public attention in 1986 when his brother was kidnapped and he paid a \$3 million ransom for his recovery.

The robbery began when the gang, wearing green wellington boots, green anoraks, and balaclavas, stopped Mr William Woolworth, the caretaker, at the main entrance to the house as he returned from the nearby public house.

Mr Muhammad Mahdi al-Tajir was a source of public fascination in the 1970s as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for the United Arab Emirates in London. (Sarah Jane Checkland writes). Public imagination was focused less on his official duties than on his wealth. "One billion, two billion, I am worth much more than that. On this telephone, I can get any amount of money I want," he was quoted as saying in 1975.

People marvelled at his five British homes, including a house in London, another in Mere, Wiltshire, and a further mansion in Perthshire. Acquired as ruins, each was lovingly restored at great cost.

Dropmore was built for Lord Grenville, prime minister to King George II. For more than 40 years it was the home of Viscount Kemsley of Dropmore, the newspaper magnate who died in 1968.

PORTFOLIO

Four readers shared yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize.

Mr Raymond Bristow of St Andrews, Nife, said: "The only other things I've ever won were a bottle of whisky and a half share in a coconut." An engineering contractor, he will spend his £500 on the firm he set up seven years ago.

Mrs Emily Johnson of Harrow, north-west London, and Mrs Joan Howard-Drake of Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire, said they would spoil children and grandchildren a little more on their birthdays. The fourth winner was Mrs Janet Chaloner, of Cheltenham.

Witness in donor case attacked

By David Sapsford

One of the key witnesses in the General Medical Council inquiry into allegations of a trade in London in paid-for kidneys has been injured in an attack which is being linked to the illegal organ brokerage business in Turkey.

It was a complaint from the victim of the attack, Mr Ahmed Koc, a peasant farmer from eastern Turkey, that initially led to the kidney trade being exposed and, eventually, to the appearance before a GMC hearing of three British doctors – Dr Raymond Crockett, a nephrologist, and Mr Michael Bewick and Mr Michael Joyce, both surgeons – charged with serious professional misconduct.

That hearing was adjourned last week and sources close the GMC emphasized yesterday that the attack on Mr Koc in Turkey was not connected with the British doctors in any way. "A man has been arrested, however, and it does appear that the stabbing is linked with the kidney trade in Turkey," said one source.

Mr Koc, aged 34 and the father of four, was assaulted and stabbed when he returned from London to his home village of Guluce earlier this month. His injuries were not extensive and, after hospital treatment, he is now reported to be on the way to making a full recovery.

The Turk said during his evidence to the GMC in December that he had been frightened that the organizers of the kidney trade in Turkey would want to kill him and early last year had sought protection from the local state prosecutor.

Retrospective for the master

By Liz Smith
Fashion Editor

Yves Saint Laurent, the man, and his legendary couture house, are in good shape. As he took the only standing ovation in the week of Paris fashion shows, Saint Laurent posed happily for photographers, looking trimmer by several pounds, which he shed when he was in recently with a broken arm.

He smiled to friends and clients in the front rows, and picked up the train of the traditional finale bridal number, a frothy wedding dress of palest pink, worn on this occasion by 18-year-old Lucie de la Falaise, the beautiful niece of his assistant, Loulou de la Falaise.

Saint Laurent's first couture collection of the decade began with a light hearted throwback of many of his best-loved classics, all in white. A fine wool blazer with trousers, a sunburst duffel coat in cotton, and a short boxy jacket in ribbed ottoman with side-wrap skirt, worn with a white pique or satin T-shirt, are classics that will continue to make a woman feel upbeat, contemporary and chic. A splodgy panther pattern and a smudgy basketweave check are the new graphic prints for the summer, used in a series of dressier wrapover silk dresses.

Saint Laurent had fun paying tribute to many of the artists and personalities who have inspired his work, including Picasso, Cocteau, and Christian Dior, as well as celebrated clients in the front row. Numbers were dedicated to Catherine Deneuve and Zizi Jeanmaire. For Deneuve it was a bright yellow silk short dress with puffed sleeves and low neck-line, and for Jeanmaire, a suitably leggy black sequinned T-shirt worn with sheer black tights.

Even if Saint Laurent

Jockey 'a leader of drug gang'

By Mark Souter

The flat race jockey Allan Mackay was one of the ring-leaders of an international plot to smuggle cocaine worth £7 million into Britain, a south London court was told yesterday.

Mr Mackay, aged 30, had a "managerial" role in the gang, as he travelled to international race meetings, it was alleged at Croydon Crown Court. The gang involved 28 people worldwide.

Mr Mackay was said to have been trapped by telephone monitoring as he arranged up to nine shipments of the drug, and was arrested after customs officers tracked the calls.

Mr Mackay and six defendants deny conspiracy to smuggle cocaine. The trial is expected to last five months. Four men had pleaded guilty to being couriers, the jury was told.

Mr Laurence Alt, for the prosecution, said the shipments were flown to Heathrow and Gatwick, in 1988. Customs officers seized 17 kilos of the cocaine, worth £3 million, during four attempted smuggling runs.

Besides Mr Mackay, of Moulton Road, Newmarket, the defendants are: James Lambie, of Falkirk; Theophanis Magerou, of Enfield, north London; Tony Kourous, of Belsize Park, north-west London; Frank Joseph, of Camden; and Gerald Copeman, of North Finchley, both north London. Mr Magerou, Mr Kourous, Mr Copeman, Mr Joseph and Mr Alt also deny importing 4kg of cocaine on November 24, 1988.



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Random breath tests and cameras at junctions demanded by motorists

Millions of drivers willing to break the law, survey says

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

More than eight out of 10 drivers want police to be given the power to carry out random breath tests, though as many as 1.7 million admit drinking and driving, according to a survey published yesterday.

The vote in favour of giving the police increased powers to stop and test motorists comes a week after the Government refused to toughen its stance against drink-drivers.

The survey discloses harder attitudes to motoring offences among drivers themselves even though they are prepared to admit to committing a series of offences which could result in injury or even death.

The statistics, compiled by MORI for Lex Service, depict a nation of motoring law breakers with 46 per cent of drivers admitting that they had committed at least one misdemeanour over the past six months.

Eight per cent of drivers said they had driven after having a drink which, extrapolated to the entire driving population of 21 million, is about 1.7 million motorists.

Men are the worst offenders, with 11 per cent of men confessing to MORI against just 4 per cent of women. A surprising 14 per cent of company car drivers — motorists who need their cars for their livelihoods — also say they drink and drive.

Another 23 per cent of motorists, about 5.2 million, overtake on the inside while 17 per cent, 3.9 million,

regularly jump traffic lights. A further 6 per cent said that they had raced with another driver on a public road.

Mr Bob Worcester, chairman of MORI, said the survey painted a picture of millions of drivers willing to break the law. "We suspect these figures are a minimum estimate and by no means a maximum."

Yet motorists told MORI they wanted a crackdown on law breakers with tough action against drink-drivers, motorists jumping lights and those driving too fast.

MORI found 83 per cent in favour of random breath tests. Another 64 per cent want the drink-drive limit reduced to no alcohol in the blood.

Motorists also wanted cameras placed at traffic light junctions to catch almost four million drivers who say they jump the lights.

Sir Trevor Chinn, Lex's chairman and chief executive, said: "Overall, the research shows that motorists want stronger police and government action against law breakers and also have increasing concern for a safer environment."

Although the majority of car owners showed they would try responsibly to heed new legislation relating to the restraint of children under the age of 14 in the back seat, a stubborn 3 per cent refuse to use 170 locations.

Lex Report on Motoring 1990
(Lex Service, Lex House, 17, Connaught Place, London NW2 2EL; £150).

That means as many as

600,000 children travel unrestrained.

According to the survey, Britain's motorists waste 25 million hours a week sitting in traffic jams.

In a clear message to the Government that it must act to clear the nation's main roads of jams costing both private car owners and industry millions of pounds, almost half of motorists claim they now avoid motorways simply because of congestion.

The survey found that nine out of 10 drivers believe that congestion has worsened in the past two years, with 95 per cent in the South-east growing unhappy since last year over the time they waste in traffic jams.

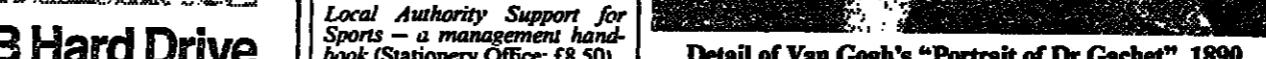
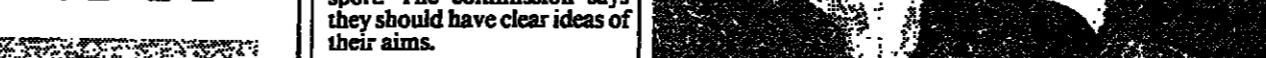
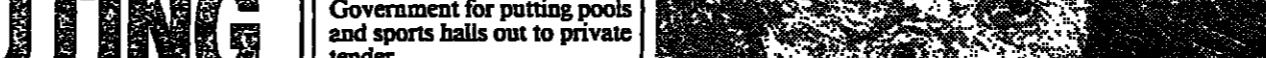
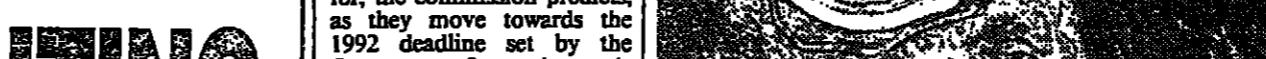
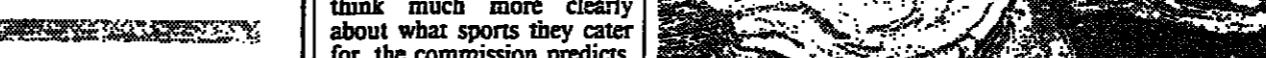
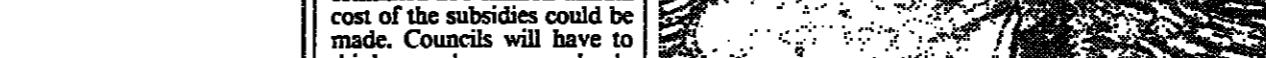
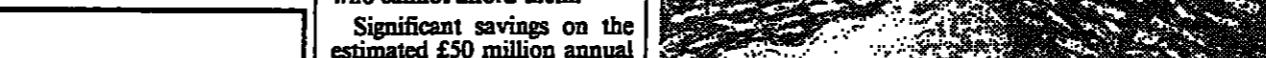
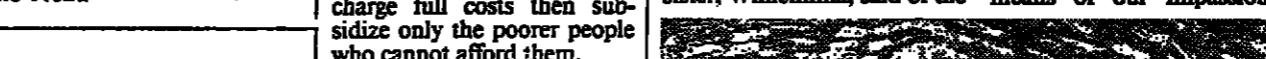
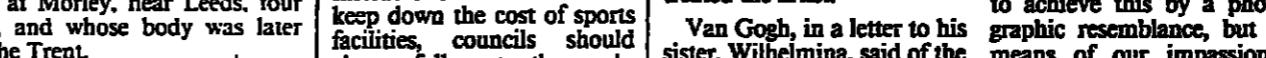
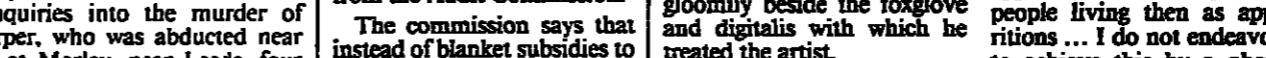
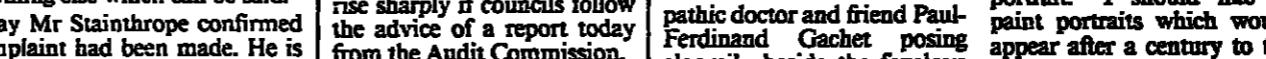
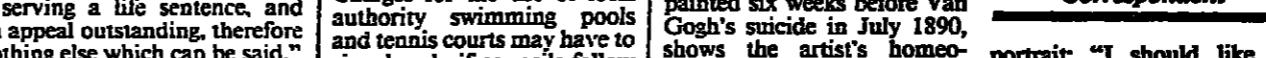
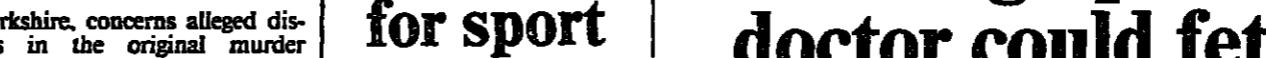
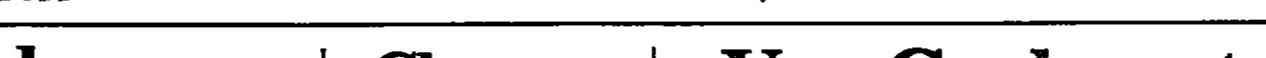
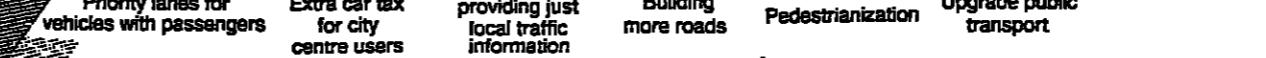
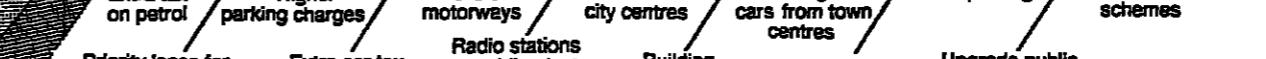
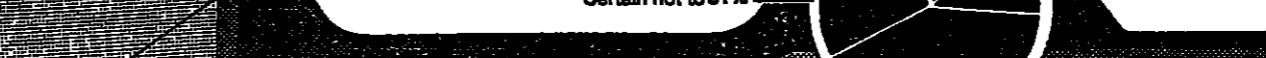
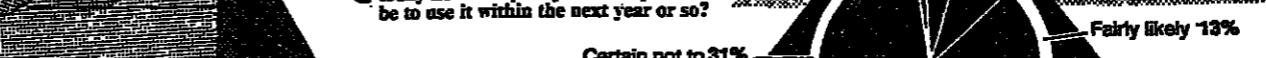
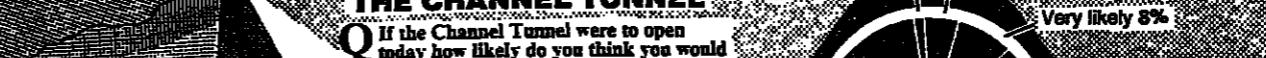
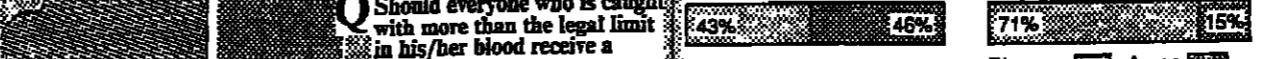
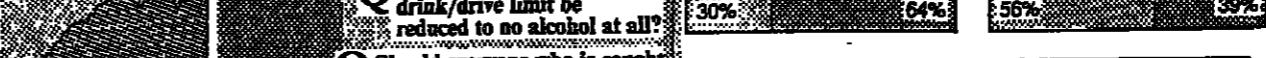
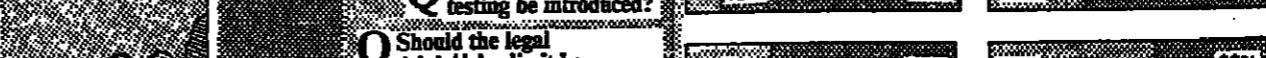
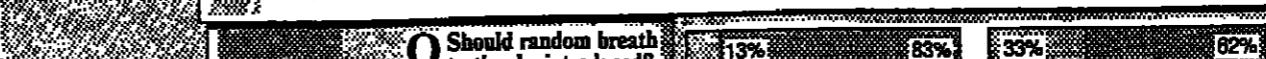
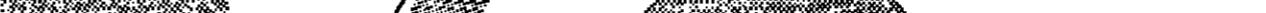
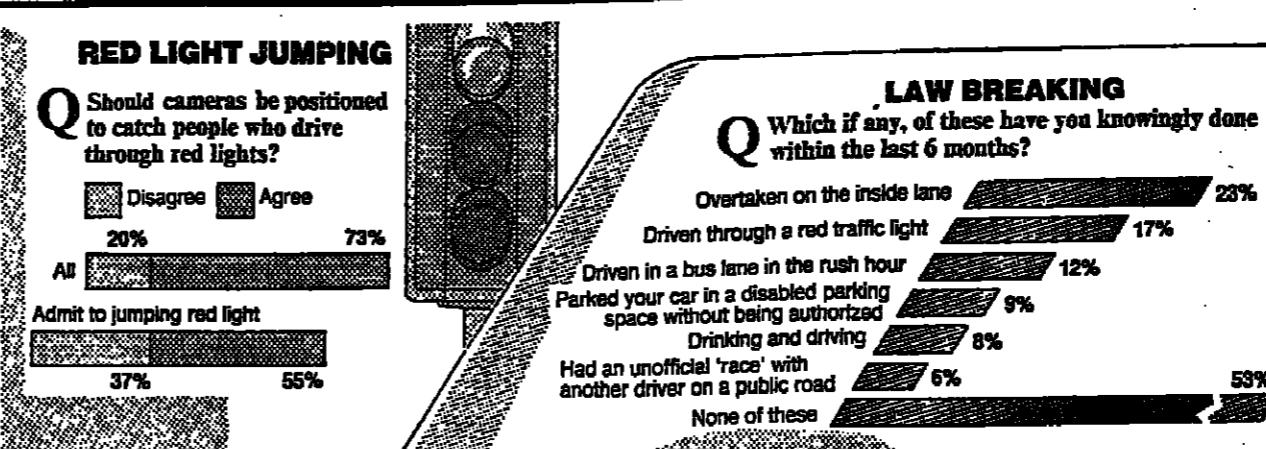
Public transport should be improved, according to 48 per cent, while 37 per cent want to see car pooling schemes.

The Channel tunnel has failed to inspire much confidence, according to the survey, for 18 per cent of the survey sample do not think the tunnel will be completed by 2001.

A further 72 per cent say that if the tunnel was opened today, they would be either unlikely or certain not to use it.

● The statistics were compiled by MORI after interviewing 1,536 drivers in more than 170 locations.

Lex Report on Motoring 1990
(Lex Service, Lex House, 17, Connaught Place, London NW2 2EL; £150).



Court staff's errors face scrutiny by the Ombudsman

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

People who suffer because of mistakes or incompetence on the part of court officials will be able to have their complaints looked into by the Ombudsman under changes proposed to the law.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, said yesterday he intends to draw up an amendment to his Courts and Legal Services Bill which would give the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) jurisdiction to investigate maladministration by court staff.

His pledge, made in the committee stage of the Courts and Legal Services Bill, settles a long-running dispute between the former Ombudsman, Sir Anthony Barrowclough, QC, and successive lord chancellors over whether court officials' errors should be open to scrutiny.

The Law Society and the National Consumer Council have also been pressing for the change, particularly in the present climate of overwork by court officials and the large number of complaints of mistakes it says it has received

from solicitors. Lord Mackay, who is to consult senior judges on the amendment, said yesterday: "I have been aware for some time of concerns about the Parliamentary Commissioner's lack of jurisdiction to investigate maladministration by court staff."

He said that such a change would give the Parliamentary Commissioner powers to investigate mistakes by court officials, some of them constitutional.

Suitable safeguards had to be found, he added, to protect the independence of the judiciary and the judicial process. Provided that could be done, he said he was "anxious to reassure people that every avenue is open to them if they believe that an error has been made by our court administration".

A change in the law to make clear that the Ombudsman's jurisdiction extends to court officials has been resisted in the past three or four years by previous lord chancellors, including, recently, Lord Mackay himself.

He and his predecessors took the view that actions by

court officials were done on behalf of the courts, and therefore could not be covered by the Ombudsman because the courts are constitutionally separate and independent from the executive.

Before them there had been a loose "concordat", under which the commissioner investigated complaints. Those had to be suspended when, as one official described it, the "shutters came down" and since then, the issue has been a "running sore".

Yesterday the Ombudsman's office said: "This appears to be a move in the right direction." Sir Anthony, who retired on January 2, had made clear that the position was "unsatisfactory", an official added.

Last night, the Law Society welcomed Lord Mackay's willingness to extend the Ombudsman's jurisdiction to activities of court officials "which are, clearly, administrative rather than judicial".

The society had received more than 30 complaints from solicitors of instances where clients had suffered financially and otherwise because of errors by county court staff.

Miller's tale comes to London

By Libby Jukes

Arthur Miller, the American writer, is in London for the opening at The Young Vic theatre next week of his play *The Price*, about a family coming to terms with the long-term effects — moral, psychological and financial — of the Wall Street Crash.

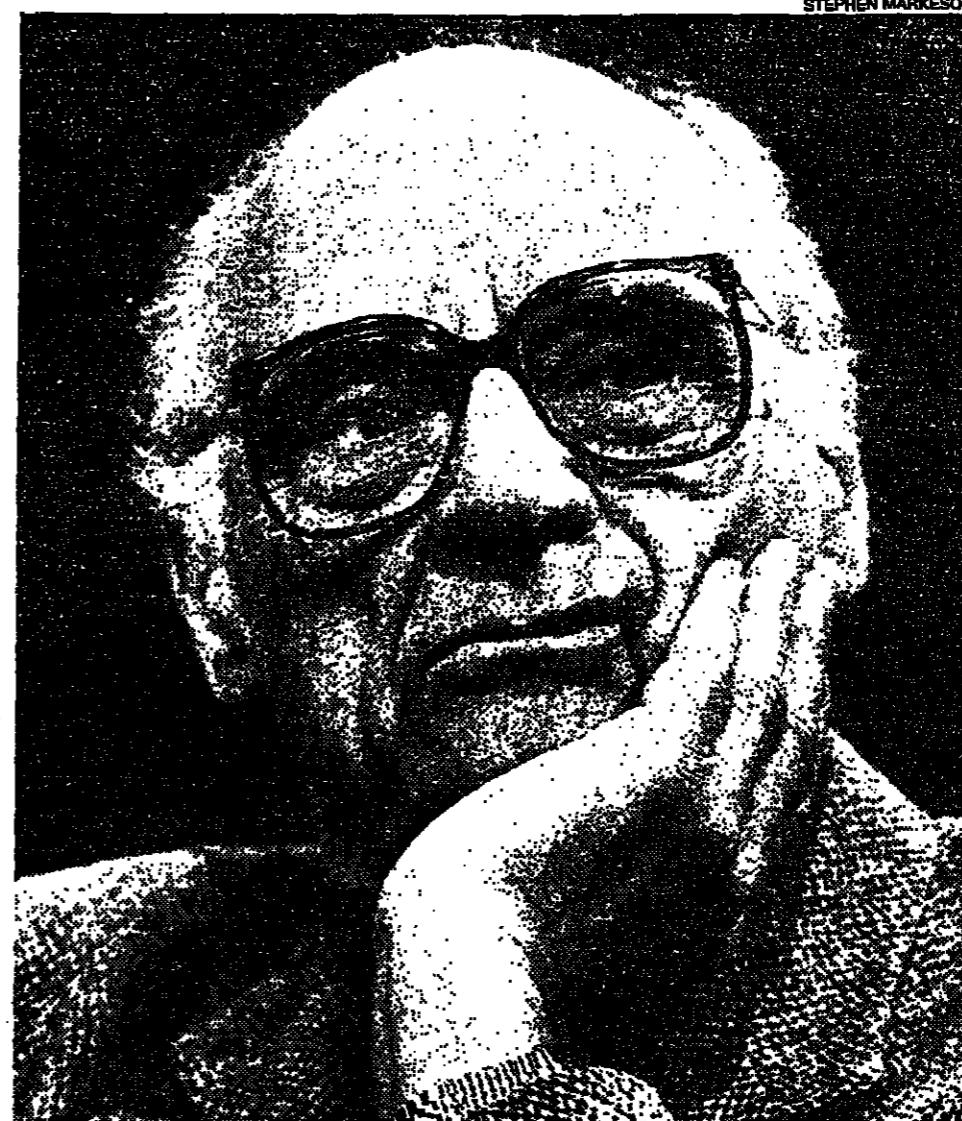
Speaking about the "collapse" of the largely commercial American theatre and the drain of dramatic talent into the film industry, Mr Miller said that unless levels of public funding were maintained and improved, "Britain will lose all those American tourists who come here to see subsidised theatre and then go home to vote against it".

He said: "This is an art which only very rarely can sustain itself on box office alone."

Mr Miller also criticized average ticket prices of \$45 in the United States, saying that "the theatre has always been at its best when it's been popular. The worst audience is a clique. You want to get in the great unwashed."

After joking that "everybody has to be led by writers", he paid tribute to Mr Václav Havel, the new President of Czechoslovakia.

"The playwright was the ultimate resistance because of his irreconcilability with the lies of the régime," he added, commenting on the United States security agencies with whom he clashed during the McCarthy era: "They haven't bothered me lately."



Arthur Miller in pensive mood at The Young Vic yesterday, where his play opens next week.

Air force award for naval rescuer

A chief petty officer of the Royal Navy has won the Air Force Cross for his work on two rescue operations in one night, it was announced yesterday.

In the first incident in March last year, Chief Petty Officer Julian Grinney went to the aid of a trawlerman in urgent need of medical treatment on board a Spanish vessel pitching and rolling in heavy seas and gale-force winds.

The Sea King helicopter from the Royal Navy Air Station at Culdrose, Cornwall, arrived at the scene to find conditions too dangerous for a non-aircrew medical assistant to be lowered to the trawler's deck. However, Mr Grinney, aged 38, from Hull, volunteered for the task.

While he was being lowered, he was almost lashed by the ship's swaying mast and hit the side of the vessel. Once on board, he organized the safe recovery of the seaman.

Within minutes of returning to Culdrose, he was airborne again to lead the rescue of four crewmen from a Korean ship which was drifting on to rocks on the west coast of Cornwall. The Ministry of Defence said: "His calm leadership and assistance ensured a successful rescue despite the perilous conditions."

Building design

Energy efficiency call to architects

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

Architects should start designing and building for the greenhouse effect, Mr John Wakeham, Secretary of State for Energy, said yesterday.

The potentially disastrous warming of the atmosphere by industrial gases such as carbon dioxide — largely emitted from power stations — can be considerably reduced by ensuring buildings are energy efficient, Mr Wakeham said.

Addressing the Royal Institute of British Architects, Mr Wakeham called for the profession to "rise to the challenge of global warming" by including in its professional code of conduct the requirement to incorporate energy efficiency in the buildings they design.

"Just in the same way that architects automatically design buildings to meet spatial and aesthetic requirements, I would like energy efficient design to become second nature to every practising architect," he said.

Mr Wakeham was speaking at a conference on The Architect, Energy and Global Responsibility co-hosted in London by the institute and the Energy Efficiency Office.

Professor Peter Smith, chairman of the institute's energy and environment committee, said the Government could not afford to leave action to tackle the greenhouse effect to the workings of the market. He suggested financial incentives for insulation.

Mr Maxwell Hutchinson, president of the institute, said: "I hope that this Government will discover that the skill and ingenuity of the architect is a key factor in the energy equation."



Mr Wakeham: "Challenge of global warming."

Ambulance dispute

Yorkshire two-tier service maintained

By Peter Davenport

With no sign of a solution to the 20-week-old ambulance dispute, army trucks and police emergency vehicles may now be a common sight in many towns, but in one area of the country yesterday, patients knew the dispute would have no effect on them.

Not one of the estimated 100,000 patient appointments in North Yorkshire has been missed in that 20 weeks. A full emergency service is in operation, and relations between crews and management remain excellent.

Mr Trevor Smith, the acting chief ambulance officer for the area, said yesterday: "The crews have demonstrated a remarkably responsible attitude throughout the dispute, and I have a great deal of respect for them. They are rather special people in this part of the world."

North Yorkshire has about 275 ambulance crews operating 80 vehicles from 16 stations and covering the largest geographical area of any service in the country, some 3,628 square miles.

They cover the city of York and towns including Harrogate and Thirsk, but 60 per cent of the work is in rural areas. Often the ambulance crew member is the only caller at a house apart from the milkman and the postman.

Mr Smith said yesterday that his crews are part of the

community and form special relationships with their patients. They are serving friends, neighbours and relatives, he said, and do not want to take any action that would let them down.

This is a factor acknowledged by union officials and crews increasingly frustrated and angry at the position they say the Government is forcing them into.

The relationship with the communities was strengthened last year when the service appealed to the public for £125,000 over two years to buy heart defibrillator machines for 25 ambulances. The response was excellent. They raised £200,000 in 10 months, and were able to equip more vehicles than planned.

Since 1985, the service in North Yorkshire has operated a two-tier system, with 200 staff and 35 vehicles devoted to accidents and emergencies, and the other 70 crew members and 45 vehicles running an outpatient service which moves about 1,000 patients a day. Qualified personnel on the emergency service, who have passed a special driving and aid course, earn £10,093 a year, while other crew members earn £7,340.

As a result of the dispute, the North Yorkshire crews are operating a 39-hour instead of a 40-hour week, and some are refusing to work overtime.

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Big Mac fails to satisfy hunger for facts on Azerbaijan

From Mary Dejevsky
Moscow

Moscow journalists were yesterday told everything they wanted to know, and more, about the arrival of the Soviet Union's first McDonald's hamburger six days hence, but almost nothing of substance about the intercommunal conflict that threatens to tear apart the country's southern republics.

It was a study in contrasts. After 15 minutes spent trying to tease out of Mr Gennadi Gerasimov, the chief spokesman at the Foreign Ministry, information about casualties, arrests, possible peace talks and the state of Soviet-Iranian relations, the assembled press corps was offered the prospect of bus rides to the MacDonald's factory on the edge of the capital. Awaiting them there would be interviews with executives, a McDonald's notebook, ballpoint pens containing the company's vital statistics

and the prospect of sampling the first Muscovite Big Mac from the "world's biggest McDonald's" 24 hours before the first Soviet customers.

Only the offer of sustenance goes any way towards helping Moscow-bound correspondents report what has been

● The result is that reporters are cut off from the story dominating world attention ■

described with justification as the biggest of all the problems President Gorbachov has faced. Few Soviet journalists have been allowed to report from Azerbaijan. All foreign correspondents based in Moscow are barred not just from the capital, Baku, but from the whole

republic. They are also forbidden from travelling to neighbouring Armenia, which was closed off only hours after a small group of Western reporters arrived there last week. Lack of fuel at Yerevan airport and periodic strikes meant that most of them took three days to return to Moscow.

The official, and not unreasonable, explanation for the travel ban is "security". Azerbaijan, and the border between the two republics, are undoubtedly dangerous places to be. Armed gangs are reported to be roaming at will, whole regions are effectively out of control.

Yerevan — with strikes, mass meetings, acute shortages of fuel and power and unreliable telephone links — is not an easy place to report from.

The effect, however, is that foreign reporters are cut off from a story that has dominated the world's media attention

for the past two weeks. We are completely at the mercy of other people.

Official information of the sort provided by Mr Gerasimov yesterday is generally vague and outdated. Official Soviet reports on the spot are likely to be subject to the constraints of the martial law now in force. What remains is the unofficial information given by often highly partisan sources on either side of the conflict.

Getting through by telephone to Azerbaijan to check a report is a full day's occupation with no guarantee of success.

Even in Azerbaijan the situation is confused: there is a vacuum of information. Newspaper and magazine offices in the republic are taking part in the general strike of protest against the Soviet military intervention. The power supply to Baku television station was blown up — official reports say by "extremist

saboteurs". Others Soviet troops — as they entered the city in order to prevent a Romanian-style revolution by television.

Radio, which broadcasts regular communiques by the military command, is the sole official purveyor of

● Radio is the source of information for the people, but they are in no mood to listen ■

information to the people of Azerbaijan. But they are unlikely to be in any mood either to listen or to believe what they hear.

The day before yesterday the military command also printed and distributed the first issue of its own magazine called,

perhaps ill-advised, *Brotherhood*, a reference to the fraternal relations that are supposed to exist between Moscow and the constituent Soviet republics.

Increasingly now, official Soviet reports warn against the rumour-mongering that flourishes when information is hard to come by. They assure people that Armenians in unmarked helicopters are not about to open fire over Baku and that representatives of the Azerbaijani Popular Front — the nationalist organization which spearheaded the Baku protests — have been allowed to board and search a ship evacuating Soviet servicemen and their families from the city.

According to a widespread rumour — put about by those who say the official death toll of 83 is far too small and that the true figure runs into the hundreds — bodies were loaded on ships immediately after the assault and dumped at sea.

Hurd airs doubts after Berlin talks

From Andrew McEwen
East Berlin

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, flew home from East Germany yesterday far from reassured by talks with the country's leaders that its transition to democracy will go smoothly.

"It is actually in the balance in my judgement," he said as his three-day visit ended. "It is in the interest of Europe that it should succeed."

Mr Hurd's visit has emphasized Britain's doubts about whether the five-party coalition and the round-table process will hold together long enough to bring East Germans through the election planned for May 6.

Although government leaders have told Mr Hurd mainly what he had hoped to hear, none of them has a political life expectancy of more than a few weeks.

The Foreign Secretary made it clear that Britain would make no moves to relax its guard until there is a new government, fairly elected. Although British officials privately believe that the two Germans will achieve *de facto* unity within one or two years, and political unity many years later, Mr Hurd treated the matter as a question for the future. He also discouraged speculation about the timing of an application by East Germany for membership of the European Community.

"I see danger in the fact that the Government of this country rests on a party or group of parties which feels a loss of popular authority," he said, adding that the widening of the five-party coalition to include opposition groups showed that the Government felt a need for a broader base simply to enable it to survive until May.

The temporary nature of the Government was further demonstrated when Professor Manfred Gerlach, acting head



Mr Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, at the Brandenburg Gate in East Berlin yesterday with Mr Nigel Broomfield, Britain's Ambassador to East Germany.

of state said that he would not stand in the elections on May 6 and planned to leave active political life. "When one has been in politics for decades one cannot easily get out of it, it is not that easy, but I shall not hold any party or state office," he said.

Professor Gerlach, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party, was the only leader within the ruling National Front who retained any personal credibility after the fall of Herr Erich Honecker and the turmoil within the Socialist Unity Party — the communists. The other three coalition leaders were seen as

puppets and two are facing trial on corruption charges.

Although all five parties remain within the Government, their authority now rests on the dialogue with the 16 parties and groups participating in the round-table talks. Eight other groups are waiting to join.

Discussions between Mr Hurd and many of the leaders of these parties and groups have reinforced concerns about the future. Although well meaning, most of the groups have only just begun to organize themselves for the elections.

Professor Gerlach said: "We politicians have to consider the views of other European

academics, intellectuals

Right-wing party emerges to woo East German voters

From Anne McElroy
East Berlin

The first united right-wing party this week staggered to its feet in East Germany in the first serious challenge for a long conservative vote in the May elections.

The German Social Union, based in Leipzig, is the latest group to result from the crossbreeding of East and West German political interest, increasingly determining the electoral landscape as preparations for reunification become more overt.

None now are the days when left-liberal opposition groups such as New Forum were forged at kitchen tables and in draughty churches —

the new East German party's first press release is likely to be come from a fax machine presented by benefactors in the West.

The German Social Union is the most conservative of the new groupings wooing the confused voter. There are already 30 opposition parties and organizations preparing to stand at the elections.

Formed from several small conservative groups in the south of the country, its arrival was publicly greeted by Herr Theo Waigel, the Bavarian leader of the West German Christian Social Union, before anyone in East Germany had even heard of it. The party is still almost unheard of outside

the East

Leipzig where Herr Hans-Wilhelm Eberling, its founder, is a vicar at the famous Thomaskirche.

Its main achievement is to have given the Christian Social Union in West Germany — the Bavarian sister party of the ruling Christian Democratic Union — a party to support in the East after the Christian Democrats here

permitted to continue in coalition with the Communists and cut themselves off from West German conservative support.

Herr Waigel, a strong proponent of speedy unification, has been pressing for some time for "a broad anti-socialist alliance" in the East

to fight off the increasingly popular Social Democrats who are also modelled on and aided by their Western counterparts.

Herr Waigel, who makes no attempt to hide the fact that his party was the driving force in bringing together the alliance in the East, has promised extensive technical assistance in the electoral campaign.

Not that it probably needs much to secure a large share of the southern vote. The south of East Germany, like the south of the West, has never shaken off its natural conservatism.

The German Social Union's programme of reunification and Christian values provide a powerful draw in the

rural communities and small towns. It has also organized itself under the old structure of *Länder*, ignoring the current geographical division of East Germany into *Bezirke*, imposed on the country by the Communists after the war.

The very sound of the pre-war names of Saxony, Thuringia and Pomerania are a powerful emotional weapon for the new party.

The German Social Union looks likely to steal the right-wing vote from the National Party.

The National Party has always been the most peculiarly constituted and amorphous of the so-called joke parties which supported the

past. The past, however, appears to be catching up with the party. Herr Wolfgang Gläser, its newly elected leader, had to

resign on Tuesday after his first speech proved to have

some slight hope of an eventual return.

King Michael is still highly regarded in Romania. He is remembered for his brave stand against the Nazi occupation in 1944 when he delivered his country into the hands of the Allies, one of whom unfortunately was Stalin. Older Romanians have less fond memories of his father, King Carol II, a notorious womanizer who offended his occasionally anti-Semitic subjects by installing a Jewish mistress in the Royal Palace. King Simeon II of Bulgaria also ruled briefly, from 1943 to the age of only six, after the death of his father King Boris III, until ejected by the communists in 1946. He went to West Point military academy in the United States, and has spent much of his life since living in Madrid and Switzerland. His stated aim to return home and be hailed as "The Pacifier" seems somewhat remote.

Herr von Habsburg received a hero's welcome in Budapest at a requiem for his mother Zita, last Queen of Hungary, who died last March, aged 96. His fluent Hungarian was no small crowd-pleaser. Speculation in Hungary suggests that even if he does not return as hereditary king, Herr von Habsburg could be offered the post of state president in the country's new-found pluralist democracy.

When Herr von Habsburg walked down a Budapest street last year, a crowd spotted him and chanted "Long live the King". And during the darkest days of the executed former president Ceausescu in Romania, daring graffiti would occasionally appear on the streets of Bucharest demanding bread and King Michael, in that order. Overall, however, popular demands for a return of the region's crowned heads have so far formed only a thin chorus.

The Habsburgs appear to have one of the better chances of recovering at least the Hungarian half of the former empire taken from them at the Versailles peace conference of 1919. Herr von Habsburg, now a

monarch to survive the communist domination of Eastern Europe until forced out at gunpoint in 1948, and was initially obliged to make a living as a market gardener at Ayot St Lawrence, Hertfordshire. Now aged 68, he has lived for many years in Switzerland working as an aviation company representative and keeping strictly mum on all political topics — until his subjects rose against their dictator at Christmas, and he offered himself.

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Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia, an insurance company representative, lives in London with his Greek second wife, although his family have no great reason to love the British. His father, King Peter, fled the Nazi occupation in 1941, ending up at Claridge's Hotel in London and confidently expecting to return home at the end of the War. But Churchill chose to favour Tito's partisans instead, and the Yugoslav monarchy fell.

By tradition, any heir to that throne must be born on Yugoslav soil. The difficulty of Crown Prince Alexander being born in Claridge's in 1945 was resolved by having the bedroom declared the official office of the Yugoslav Government-in-exile. A Slovenian magazine recently nominated Prince Alexander man of the year, thus giving him some slight hope of an eventual return.

He might, however, find a rival claimant for at least one part of his country. King Nicholas II of Montenegro, born in 1944 and currently living in Paris, created a considerable stir of interest when he returned last year for the burial of his father Nicholas I. But the Montenegrin royal family have not

reigned since 1921, their chances of recovering the throne must be regarded as slight.

Infinitely more self-confident is the self-styled King Leka of Albania, who declared in Paris this week that

Volunteers patrol Yerevan as troop airlift continues

From Robin Lodge, Yerevan

Soviet troops kept a close watch over this capital of Armenia yesterday, without attempting to disarm volunteer units who have effectively taken over control of the city from the authorities.

At Yerevan airport a succession of Illyushin 76 transports landed on Tuesday night with troop reinforcements, while an armoured car flashed a searchlight over busloads of outgoing passengers.

"They were landing all day yesterday and the day before — hundreds of troops, tanks and guns," an airport official said. Other officials said, however, that some troops were also being flown out.

The military flights continued despite bad weather and fuel shortages, blamed by officials on the six-month Azerbaijani blockade of Armenia, which delayed civilian planes for up to 24 hours.

Convoys of army lorries could be seen late on Tuesday heading from the airport towards the city, but none were to be seen in the centre.

Groups of armed men gathered outside the headquarters of the Armenian National Movement, the unofficial organization which has supervised the recruitment of volunteers to fight on the Azerbaijani border.

A few streets away, how-

ever, the stolen field guns and armoured vehicles which had been lined up outside the movement's self-styled Armenian National Army base had vanished.

Volunteers, refusing to give their names, said the heavy equipment had been returned to the state, apparently as a gesture of reconciliation, but *Izvestia* reported that attempts to steal army equipment were continuing.

The Soviet government newspaper added that raiders at the Yerevan war museum had escaped with broken-down tanks, heavy guns and machine-guns.

Mr Gennadi Gerasimov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, told reporters in Moscow yesterday that more than 5,000 weapons had been stolen in Armenia in the past two days.

Many residents said they feared similar action to that in Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, when troops stormed the city on Saturday to crush a nationalist revolt. About 100 people were killed, according to the official count.

Azerbaijani journalists said many people were staying away from work in the republic in protest, despite a ban on strikes imposed under a military decree on Tuesday.

A few streets away, how-

Polish communists' coffers yield £44.2m

Warsaw (Reuter) — Poland's communist party, facing a storm of demands to surrender its wealth, admitted yesterday that it had amassed a real estate empire worth tens of millions of pounds during its 45 years in power.

The Polish United Workers Party owned buildings, holiday centres, vehicles, publishing houses, printing presses and machinery worth more than £44.2 million, a party official told the communist daily, *Tribuna Ludu*.

The admission, three days before the party plans to disband and form a non-Marxist party, followed a wave of sit-ins by radicals demanding the return of buildings to the state and a proposal in Parliament to nationalize all the party's assets.

More than 130 deputies in the 460-seat Sejm (lower house) support a Bill presented by a right-wing Catholic deputy to nationalize all the party's assets. It is due to be debated on Thursday.

The party lost huge state subsidies and tax breaks after Solidarity took power last September.

At the end of 1988, party property (real estate) was valued at 32.1 billion zlotys (£364 million) at the 1988 exchange rate," Mr Andrzej Hajkowski, the party's deputy director for economic affairs, said. Party vehicles, printing presses and machinery were valued at 4.4 billion zlotys.

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King Leka of Albania: Waiting in Paris for his people to rise.

Bavarian Deputy to the European Parliament, the eldest son of Karl I, last Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary, whose case for beatification is currently before the Vatican.

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Electoral sparring as Kaifu dissolves Japan Parliament

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

The Japanese Government dissolved Parliament yesterday to prepare for a general election that will decide whether Mr Toshiki Kaifu will be replaced by Japan's fourth Prime Minister in less than a year. The vote will also determine whether the Japanese are fed up enough with the ruling Liberal Democrats to end their 34-year stranglehold on power.

An election on February 18 will officially be called on February 3, but the sparring began as soon as MPs heard of the dissolution.

Most commentators expect the Government, though not necessarily Mr Kaifu, to pull through. But predictions have become risky in Japan, a country once so steady in its voting habits that political bookmakers had little to do. Over the past year behaviour once taken for granted has raised eyebrows and there have been upsets at the polls. Next month's vote could be close.

The recruit bribery scandal made Japan's money-hungry politics look dated. Mr Susumu Uno's philandering with bar hostesses was exposed at a time when Japanese women were struggling for a voice and angry about a new sales tax. Mr Uno was eased out of his job in 69 days.

Neither episode reflected well on the Liberal Democratic Party and led to its humiliation by the opposition Socialists in upper house elections last July. Farmers' anger about the Liberal Democrats' promise to import more US farm products was also a big vote-loser.

The panic at top party dining tables through the autumn was whether the Socialists could repeat the trick in polls for the lower house, the more influential chamber.

But the Socialists' recent slide in opinion polls, fading memories of the recruit mess, the Japanese people's innate conservatism and the bad publicity that recent events in Eastern Europe have given to socialism, seem to suggest that the smart money will be on the Liberal Democrats.

Although it could muddle through with an opposition

coalition, the Socialists are not even putting up enough candidates to gain power single-handedly even if all of them won. That says as much about the Socialists' amateurish electoral machinery — rusty after 34 years in the political wilderness — as about its appeal.

The Liberal Democrats yesterday also received a powerful endorsement when Mr Eishiro Saito, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations, the Keidanren, warned that the elections would decide Japan's destiny in the 21st century and said Japan's "miraculous economic growth" since the war had been based on "stable politics championed by the LDP". But this does not mean that the party has much hope

Moon mission

TOKYO (Reuter) — Japan launched a spacecraft last night in a bid to become the third nation to send a craft into orbit around moon. The Muses-A spacecraft, part of Japan's ambitious plan to exploit the commercial resources of outer space, blasted off at 11.46 GMT carrying two satellites that will reach the moon on March 18, an official of the Government's Institute of Space and Astronautical Science said.

of retaining, let alone increasing, the 294 seats it holds in the 512-seat lower house. It wants more than 270 seats to keep its head up, but needs 257 to maintain its majority. The signs are that the party will not get what it wants, but will get what it needs.

In that sense, the threat to Mr Kaifu's political future comes more from within his own ranks than from the opposition. Mr Kaifu is amiable and eloquent but has no strong following within his own party. He was plucked from obscurity last autumn to replace Mr Uno for three reasons: he was untainted by recruit (he was too unimportant to be); he had no grishas in his cupboard; and having no power centre of his own within the party, he could be

pushed sideways when the time came for his seat-warming role to end.

Mr Noboru Takeshita, who hurled Japan into political confusion last summer when he was forced to resign over the recruit affair, remains the most influential powerbroker within the Liberal Democrats, a party in which factional warlords circulate power among themselves.

Mr Uno and Mr Kaifu, in turn, were both controlled by Mr Takeshita who, if he did not rule himself, still had the clout to choose who did. Mr Takeshita recently reminded everyone who was boss by announcing the likely election date, usually the Prime Minister's prerogative. That Mr Kaifu was, at the time, making a statesman's tour of Europe only made him look more ineffectual at home and abroad.

Mr Takeshita had planned for Mr Shintaro Abe, the former Foreign Minister, to succeed him. That strategy was derailed by the recruit scandal, which smeared Mr Abe along with the rest of the party elite.

Now Mr Abe, aged 65, is getting fidgety. He is not in good health and he fears that the longer Mr Kaifu stays at the helm, the less chance there is that a crusty member of the *ancien régime*, such as Mr Abe, will succeed him. Younger Liberal Democrats have eyes on the job.

In a dramatic re-entry on to the political stage, Mr Abe met President Gorbachov in Moscow earlier this month grabbing the Japanese newspaper headlines that Mr Kaifu was expecting on his travels through Europe. The fact that Mr Gorbachov was said to have cancelled his meetings with foreigners added to Mr Abe's prestige.

Mr Kaifu may have to stand down if the Government only just scrapes through. If he does, Mr Abe will be ready to take the reins.

A better-than-expected result for the party could extend Mr Kaifu's lease until November, when the party votes for its President-cum-Prime Minister. Mr Abe will still be waiting.

protect the students because a comparable administrative action could be reversed by President Bush or a successor.

"The Bill is totally unnecessary," Mr Bush said, warning that legislation could prompt the Chinese Government to cut off all future educational exchanges. "The long-term consequences are potentially great."

Having discounted the possibility of getting the support of Democrat-led Congress, Mr Bush pinned his hopes on Senate Republican leaders, whom he called to the White

House for breakfast in a last-minute effort to persuade them to support his veto. The Senate will vote on the issue today.

Mr Alan Cranston, a Senator and minority whip, said it was unclear whether Senate would override the veto. "It's touch and go," he said. Democratic Senators are all expected to overturn the veto, but the vote depends on swaying a handful of Republicans. "We would like to see it the law of the land," Mr Cranston said.

Members of Congress were angered during their end-of-

year recess at the revelation

that Mr Bush authorized two high-level visits to Peking, one by Mr Brent Scowcroft, the White House National Security Adviser, and Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, the Deputy Secretary of State, took place a month after the pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square.

Critics of Mr Bush accused him of moving ahead of US public opinion and falling prey to his personal links with China. They accused Mr Bush, who was a former envoy to China, of "kowtowing" to

Chinese leaders. "I'm not accepting the status quo at all," Mr Bush said yesterday, "and China knows my position on this."

The President has justified the trips by saying he did not want to isolate such a huge country from the rest of the world.

Congress has refused to accept his explanation that China has made concessions to the West in return for the lifting of certain economic sanctions imposed after the crackdown.

Mr Bush heralded the lifting

of martial law by Peking on

January 10 as an important step. Many members of Congress simply viewed the move as posturing.

Yesterday, Mr Bush said

that he welcomed other measures by China, including a

renewed assurance to stop arms sales to the Middle East

and the establishment of a

variety of cultural and educational programmes.

Such concessions do not, however, meet demands by Congress for a significant improvement in China's human rights record.

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He said: "There are witches and there are witches," apparently referring to the distinction between black and white magic. "If you are with God, you have nothing to fear."

Other pastors supported

the President. Señor José Alguera, of the Church of the Queen of Christ, said his colleague was being unfair because "there are no sorcerers in the Cabinet or the Sandinista Liberation Front".

Don Francisco Ramirez Rivera, a retired minister, said

he did not oppose the con-

gress, although "I am sure of

one thing, and that is that

Lucifer will be sitting

quietly in the Olof Palme

Conference Centre because his

sorcerer friends will be paying

homage to his person."

He said Nicaragua would be visited by satanic demons from Bulgaria, England and other nations. "That is why we had the earthquake in Nevada del Ruiz," he said, referring to a recent natural disaster.

Señor Ortega, who has been

honing his macho image by

campaigning on horseback or

appearing with

beautiful

women on his arm, reminded

Señor Murillo — no relation to his wife — that the constitution

permits freedom of

religion and that in earlier

times Protestant evangelicals

were persecuted.

He said: "There are witches and there are witches," apparently referring to the distinction between black and white magic. "If you are with God, you have nothing to fear."

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Ever since those new computers arrived, the office has been full of creative and inspired individuals.

But the same people still work here.

The Macintosh has got everyone in the place fired up with enthusiasm.

Ideas are beginning to surface from people we thought had retired.

Our marketing and engineering people are *really* starting to communicate with each other.

Who would have thought the same computers used by our head office could do so much for a small company like ours?

So what's so different about these new computers?

They use symbols that we're all familiar with, like wastebaskets and files. It seems like we've been using them for years rather than a few weeks.

When you pick up a pencil you don't think how to write, only what to write.

A Macintosh works the same way. We no longer have to memorise a series of complicated commands or follow rigid pathways.

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Please send me more information about Apple Macintosh personal computers. Post to: Apple Computer U.K. Limited, FREEPOST, Information Centre, Riverside Suite, Bishop's Palace House, Kingston, Surrey KT1 1BR, or Dial 100 and ask for Freephone Apple.

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Postcode _____ Telephone _____

And because all Macintosh software works in a consistent way it doesn't become any more complex when we move onto new applications.

The Macintosh has even enhanced the capabilities of our existing system.

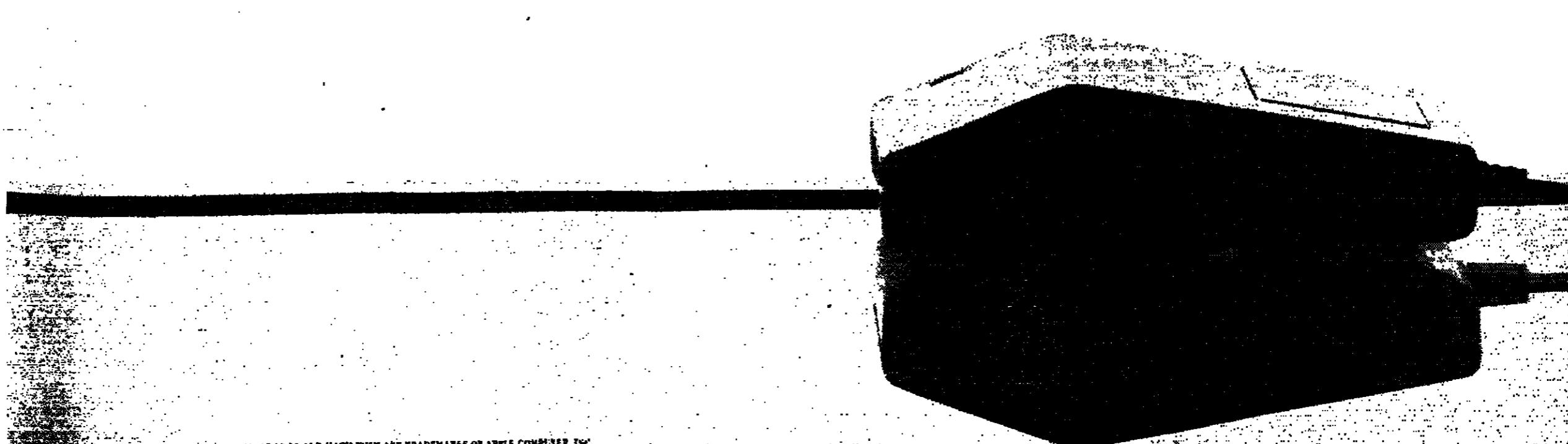
It's not that this computer can actually improve an individual. All it does is bring out the potential that's already there.

It was only a couple of months ago that we were considering sending the whole company on one of those motivation courses.

We don't think we'll bother anymore.

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Inspire everyone in your office.
And while you're at it inspire yourself.



January 24 1990

PARLIAMENT

Government record on education 'is a national disgrace'

The Government's record on education was a national disgrace, Mr Jack Straw, told MPs when he opened an Opposition debate.

Mr Straw, chief Opposition spokesman on education, said that the Government had wasted the chances of half a generation. He called on Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education, to wake up to the crisis in teaching.

Mr MacGregor denied that there was a crisis. The Government, he said, had backed its school policies with resources. While conceding that there were recruitment problems in London and in certain subjects, he said that people were queuing up to become teachers.

Mr Straw moved an Opposition motion condemning the Government for the divisiveness and failure of its schools policies and stating that teacher morale had never been lower.

He said that teachers were underpaid and leaving the profession while children were being taught in squalid, underfunded conditions.

The Secretary of State was blind to the scale of the problems he now faced as, if the mid-1980s had been some sort of golden age in English education when standards rose, choice was extended, books and equipment were plentiful and every child had a permanent, properly equipped, well-painted teacher in front of his/her class.

What the Secretary of State had to grasp was that the crisis over which he now presided had not just arisen in the six months he had been office, although to some it might seem like that. The crisis was the accumulation of ten years of damage and neglect.

Mr Richard Tracey (Surbiton, C) intervened to ask if Mr Straw would state unequivocally that, if returned to office, Labour would bring back the Inner London Education Authority.

Mr Straw said that the Ilea had been gratuitously and unreasonably abolished and that had made it more difficult to recruit teachers, as parents with children at the schools, like himself, would know.

The previous Secretary of State, Mr Kenneth Baker, had been the master of the quick fix. He had been the architect of the lethal combination of the city technology colleges, opting out, local management of schools and the inflexible national curriculum.

The greatest test of any system was the proportion of young children who completed their compulsory state education with recognized qualifications and then stayed on beyond 16 in full-time education or high-quality training.

Fewer young people stayed on after they were 16 than in any of Britain's main competitor countries.

The proportion staying on under this Government had barely moved, from 33 per cent to 35 per cent, despite the rapid decline in the size of the age group, which should have led to a dramatic improvement.

The Government, after 10 years, had no programme for recruiting the participation of 16 to 19-year-olds.

There had been a catastrophic drop in the amount of investment. This was a nation of crumbling schools with leaking roofs, rotting windows, classrooms undecorated for years, classes housed in pre-fabs, in buildings past their useful life.

Mr Robert Cryer (Bradford South, Lab) said that there were

Mr Straw, responding to an intervention, said that the Inner London Education Authority had been gratuitously and unreasonably abolished. This had made it more difficult to recruit teachers, as parents with children at the schools, like him, would know.

He could not give an unequivocal assurance on the nature of Ilea under Labour because, unlike the Government, Labour would consult the boroughs, parents and teachers about what arrangements they thought best for the education of children in London.

600 temporary classrooms housing children in Bradford. Many had been temporary for so long that recent reforms were being implemented.

Mr Straw said that while Britain's country schools were starved of cash, the Government continued its support for city technology colleges.

No programme had been such a comprehensive and expensive failure. Two years were promised by last month. "We have three."

Most of the money was supposed to come from business but had, in the main, come from the taxpayer. Every blue-chip company had boycotted the programme. The money had come from the sleazy, the failing and the second-rate.

The policy was wasteful and wrong. It should be scrapped and the £120 million spent on a grant programme of repairs and improvements.

Investment in education had been cut by central government and the system overladen almost beyond endurance by divisive, meretricious initiatives.

The national curriculum had imploded under its own contradictions. It was forcing many schools to choose between teachers and books, posing them impossible choices.

No Government had treated teachers and children so casually. Mr MacGregor should wake up to the crisis which was all around him.

Mr MacGregor moved an amendment congratulating the Government on its "coherent programme for securing lasting

improvements in standards in schools".

He said that the Government's reform programme was based on widespread agreement between parents, employers and the public. This involved defining clear national objectives for what was to be taught, improving the relevance of the curriculum to work, improving the quality, standards and range of subjects taught, increasing and devolving choice and financial control.

GCSE had substantially improved teaching and learning. The number of pupils staying on after 16 had risen by 10 per cent in 1988. The Technical and Vocational Education Initiative had involved every education authority in introducing technical applications into the curriculum. Schools had been allowed to manage their own budgets and thousands of new governors drawn into school life.

In-service training for teachers had been improved through a £600 million programme. Spending per pupil was up 42 per cent in real terms and capital spending per pupil up by 10 per cent in real terms in the past 10 years.

The Government was on the right track, but there was a long way to go to achieve the competitive, high quality standard and performance required for the 1990s.

That was the reason for the introduction of the national curriculum and other measures representing the biggest reforms since 1944.

There was widespread support and acceptance by teachers of the benefits of nationally agreed attainment targets and programmes of study. He hoped that independent schools would take up the national curriculum.

He was getting demands for other subject areas to be brought fully and effectively within the national curriculum as soon as possible.

"I hope to publish the final report of the history group next month. Geography and modern languages will follow in the summer. I shall be making an announcement on music, art and physical education soon."

The Government was widening parental choice by pressing ahead with the city technology college programme.

There were serious shortages of teacher supply, but no purpose was served by misrepresenting them.

"There is no evidence whatever that teacher shortages are dramatically worse than in previous years, or that they are facing a nationwide crisis."

There were, however, serious problems within the overall picture: high living costs, determining recruitment in London and difficulty of recruiting in key subjects such as physics, chemistry, modern languages and maths.

The Government had spent £50 million since July 1986 on short-term measures to help deal with the shortage.

Would he reflect that, by his

Thatcher hint on museums backing

By Simon Tait and Libby Jakes

The Prime Minister appeared to give the national museums and galleries a broad hint that they will have her support in their attempt to buy works of art.

Opening the Tate Gallery's new rearrangement of its exhibits yesterday, Mrs Thatcher said: "It is not enough to conserve the heritage, we have to enlarge it before we pass it on and that means we have to buy new pictures."

Purchase grants for the national galleries and museums were frozen at £9 million in 1985 so that funding could be concentrated on the fabric of the buildings, and since then prices on the art market for the finest works have soared beyond the reach of national collections.

The Tate's is £15.5 million. Mr Nicholas Serota, the director, said yesterday that the whole of the remainder of this year's grant had been committed to buying a new painting by Lucian Freud, assisted by £100,000 from the National Art Collections Fund.

Mr Peter Longman, secretary of the Museums and Galleries Commission, which has endorsed calls by national directors

for an increase in purchase grants, said: "I think they were off-the-cuff remarks which may have come as a surprise to the Office of Arts and Libraries, but they will be seen as a broad hint to national museums directors that there could be extra support."

Mrs Thatcher was formally opening "Past, Present, Future", a new £1 million display of the Tate's collection of British and international modern art, described by Mr Serota as a "popular" measure.



Mrs Thatcher at the opening yesterday of the Tate's rearrangement of its galleries.

MP's action 'sets bad example'

POLL TAX

A Labour MP who indicated support for non-payment of the poll tax was criticized by a minister at question time for setting a bad example and for warning a "free ride" for himself and his cronies.

Mr David Nellist (Coventry South East, Lab) criticized the Government for spending money on television advertisements, such as that showing a pensioner telling her dog, Flash, about the so-called community charge.

The reality was that one million people in Scotland were not paying the poll tax and they were likely to be joined from next April by millions in England and Wales, including more than 30 Labour MPs.

Whereas the minister might think that the battle had ended with last week's vote in the Commons, with the containment of a few Tory rebels, in the words of Ronald Reagan: "He ain't seen nothing yet."

Mr David Hunt, Minister for Local Government, I very much hope that Mr Nellist will carefully reflect on what he has just said. He is in a position of authority, by virtue of membership of this House.

Would he reflect that, by his

action, his constituents will have to pay a higher community charge so that he and his cronies can have a free ride?

Mr Robin Squire (Hornchurch, C) held up a press release from Mr Nellist which, he said, spoke of 30 Labour MPs joining a mass non-payment campaign.

"Those of us who have always been agnostic on the community charge have never suggested at any time that we would support non-payment."

"We fully recognize the standing of Parliament of passing laws in this respect. Any campaign to encourage non-payment of any tax can only be in the worst interests of this country and above all can reflect badly on the Labour Party."

Mr Hunt agreed. Nellist was setting a bad example in seeking to urge others not to pay the community charge as well as saying that he would not himself pay. He urged the Opposition Front Bench to join him in condemning Mr Nellist.

Mr David Blunkett, an Opposition spokesman on local gov-

ernment, said that they would have no difficulty in defeating the poll tax at the ballot box.

Mr Hunt: I regret that he did not take this early opportunity to criticize Mr Nellist and for not making it clear that he (Mr Nellist) would get no support from him.

Mr Interference with market forces in recycling was ineffective, Mr David Heathcoat-Amory, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said at questions. He resisted pressure from both sides of the House to intervene in tackling the glut of recycled paper.

Mr Heathcoat-Amory said that past inexperience in the market had led to the glut of low-grade waste paper. Subsidies and mandatory recycling in West Germany and certain states of the United States had led to oversupply of low-grade waste paper.

"We are anxious now to match that supply with increased demand. The American experience shows that interference before planning leads to the opposite effect."

Attempt to repeal rent Acts fails

A private Member's Bill to repeal the Rent Acts of 1957, 1977 and 1984, was rejected by 167 votes to 56 majority, 111.

Asking leave under the 10-minute rule to introduce the 10-Rent Acts (Repeal) Bill, Mrs Teresa Gossage (Birkenhead, C) said that it would "release the spirit of the kindly landlady".

Total abolition of rent control would free people from the fear of renting property and would provide homes for those sleeping rough.

Mr David Whinick (Walsall North, Lab) said that the Bill would take away the legal rights of more than a million people. A better title would be the Return of Residential Bill.

Scheme to cut jail censorship

The Government is to run a pilot scheme at four prisons on reducing the censorship of prisoners' mail, Mr David Mellett, Minister of State, Home Office, said in a written reply.

The three-month scheme will run at Leeds, Maidstone, Norwich and Winchester prisons. It starts on February 1.

NHS staff rise

There has been a 13.6 per cent increase in the number of medical and dental staff in the National Health Service between 1979-88, compared to a 2.8 per cent rise in the number of non-medical staff, Lady Hooper, Under Secretary of State for Health, said at questions in the House of Lords.

There were now 55,900 medical and dental staff and 953,700 non-medical staff, which includes nurses, she said.

Less lead

Lead concentrations in the air fell by 50 per cent between 1985 and 1988 as a result of the switch to lead-free petrol and the reduction of lead in other petrol. Mr David Heathcoat-Amory, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said in a written reply.

Points of view

During 12 minutes of points of order, Mr Hugh Bykes (Harrow East, C) suggested that MPs should distinguish between technical points of order and real points of order.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill): I have my own points of order of that kind.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions to the Home Office; Prime Minister. Motions on Scottish housing support and revenue support. EC motions on shipping regulations. Private Bills.

Lois (3.00): Courts and Legal Services Bill, committee, third day.

£250m set aside to ease plight of homeless

Plans for house building and converting tenancies in ownership are among a multitude of schemes being prepared by the Government to deal with the urgent problem of homelessness. Mr Michael Spicer, Minister for Housing and Planning, said at Commons question time.

He said that a survey carried out by the Salvation Army last year showed that there were 753 people sleeping rough on the streets of 17 London boroughs.

Mr Thomas Cox (Folkestone, Lab) said that it was deplored that, when homelessness was worsening month by month, the latest survey had been taken last year. The reports of the Salvation Army or the London Housing Unit outlined the enormity of the problem. It was caused by a lack of low-rent accommodation, resulting from the direct actions of the Government, as well as the cutting of benefits to those most in need.

When would there be real action that would end this enormous scandal in London

and elsewhere in the country?

Mr Spicer said the Government accepted the seriousness of the problem: it had already earmarked £250 million to relieve the problem of the homeless, those relying on hostels and those sleeping rough.

Sir George Young (Ealing, C) said that a vigorous extension of the tenants' incentive scheme, which enabled existing council tenants to move out and buy their own homes, would enable many in bed-and-breakfast accommodation to be rehoused within 12 months.

Mr Spicer said that the facts were extremely difficult to come by, by definition. The issue was how to solve it and that was receiving urgent consideration.

Mr Toby Jessel (Twickenham, C) said that there were many aged under 18 among the homeless who should go back to live with their parents.

Mr Spicer said that there were

growing numbers of young people among those sleeping rough and it was part of Government policy to encourage them

to return home. That was the first thing the voluntary organizations sought to do.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolton, Lab) called for greatly increased public-sector house-building. People living in cardboard boxes in the Strand showed "the reality of the these last 10 years of running down the house building programme".

Millions of bricks were in stock; thousands of building workers were ready to be employed. They should be put together.

Mr Spicer said that the Government was providing housing through a whole panoply of policies affecting the private and the public sector.

Mr David Evans (Welwyn Hatfield, C) said that there was enough housing in London to accommodate 10 times the number of homeless people. The long-term homeless had turned their backs on society. Young offenders should be held responsible to their parents, not to this Government.

Mr Spicer that there had been tremendous mismanagement by local councils of their estates, resulting in properties being uninhabitable and being left empty.

Mr Robert Sheldon (Aston-under-Lyne, Lab) said that there were no black marks against Mr Major, but he was on trial. They would know more after his first

return. He had received an abominable inheritance. But it was a crisis that had been in abeyance for 10 years.

Sir Peter Horeham (Horsham, C) said that he did not believe that monetary policy, in the sense of controlling the monetary aggregates, was enough to control inflation. It was important that the exchange rate did not fall too far. Here the Government was in real difficulty.

In the past year the pound had fallen 16 per cent against the Deutschmark. There should be an exchange-rate policy aligning sterling to the Deutschmark.

Mr John Gossage (Norwich South, Lab) said that the autumn statement was a statement of hope that Britain was not yet tipping over into recession. The Government's figures showed it was already well into one.

<p

SPECTRUM

A chancellor for all Germany?

THE TIMES PROFILE

OSKAR LAFONTAINE

By this time next year, a poor boy from Saarbrücken could, at the early age of 47, be chancellor of the richest country in Europe. If the rush towards the reunification of Germany continues, then the addition of the East German electorate, could make Oskar Lafontaine, socialist prime minister of Saarland, the first chancellor of a newly united country with a mandate that would last a lifetime. He stands on the threshold of greatness — and he knows it.

By rights, Lafontaine, should be a member of the Christian Democrats instead of their scourge. Educated at a seminary from the age of nine, he passed out with honours and a university scholarship, a shining example of what a good Catholic education can do for a boy from a poor background. But within three years of leaving school he had joined the Social Democrats and launched himself enthusiastically into a political career. "I never could see anything particularly Christian about the Christian Democrats," he explained later, with the blunt forthrightness which has won him so many devoted admirers — and not a few committed enemies.

But it is also part of a style which has made him one of that rare breed of modern German politicians — a man with charisma and very much the man to beat. On Sunday, he leads his party confidently into the Saarland elections, as a popular prime minister of five years' standing. In 1985, he ended the CDU's hold on the steaming state, which had never been broken.

It is not so much a question of whether or not he will win on Sunday, but whether he can achieve that rarity in the splintered West German political system of an overall majority. He already has the enthusiastic support of Willy Brandt, the SPD's increasingly venerated elder statesman. At the moment, Lafontaine is deputy party leader to Hans-Jochen Vogel, who appears increasingly tired in opposition, and the SPD is looking for a new man at the top. It is due to make up its mind later this year. If Lafontaine leads the party to overall control of a state which was regarded as a CDU fiefdom only six years ago, there will be no

rubber-stamped by a special congress last month.

It calls for an ecological overhaul of the economy, with shorter, more flexible working hours and, in essence, Lafontaine's campaign for "nil-growth". "The old economy is finished," he claims. What he is striving to introduce is what he calls "eco-socialism".

He is determinedly a socialist, but by no means one whom Karl Marx would have recognized. His economic thinking was moulded by the Saarland, where the great steel industry which brought wealth to the region in the past was in decline. For him, the only real answer is to reorientate the labour market, with government



stopping him becoming the SPD's lead candidate for the general election in December, heading an energetic charge to sweep Chancellor Helmut Kohl from power.

That is why Chancellor Kohl

will be making the weary trudge to the drab congress hall in Saarbrücken tonight to support the CDU's lead candidate in the election, Klaus Töpfer.

Töpfer already has the unenviable job of being environment minister in the federal government, which makes him a whipping boy for the green lobby. He is putting an experienced and brave face on the present election campaign.

He was head of planning in the

successful CDU administration in Saarland in the early

Seventies and he knows the area

well even though he is not, like his

political opponent, a local boy.

Despite the support of the

chancellor, Töpfer must know in

his heart that he stands little

chance of winning back the Saar-

land and that he will do well even

to deny Lafontaine an overall

majority. Kohl, however, must be

hoping that he does so because

opinion polls already show that

the stolid but uninspiring chan-

cellor is trailing Lafontaine badly

as a *popular figure*. If the SPD

decides to pick "the ayatollah of

the Saar", Kohl knows that he will

have a desperate struggle to win in

December.

Lafontaine has specialized in

the unexpected, almost the outa-

geous opinion, shocking support-

ers and opponents alike into think-

ing afresh about big prob-

lems. His thinking was behind the

party's Berlin Programme, the

SPD's first new policy document

for 30 years, which was largely

rubber-stamped by a special con-

gress last month.

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labour market, with government

finance for further education and with trade unionists accepting that those on higher wages must not only work shorter hours, but must accept pay cuts to help create jobs and to compensate the unemployed. These are ideas which have brought him into open conflict with the union establish-

ment. His views on defence are

enough to send a shiver down the

corridors of Nato — but they are

probably what makes him most

attractive of all to the West

German electorate. "We have

thousands of nuclear systems in

Germany already and we want

them away," he says. "The dis-

cussion of balance in weapons is a

crazy discussion in a situation of

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BIOGRAPHY

1943: Born at Saarbrücken, son of a manual worker who was killed in the war
1952: Sent to Catholic seminary at Prüm-Eifel
1956: Wins scholarship to study physics at Bonn and Saarbrücken Universities
1966: Joins Social Democrats (SPD)
1968: Member Saar SPD regional committee
1969: Graduates with honours, takes job with public transport corporation
1970: Elected to Saar Parliament, deputy leader SPD group
1971: Chairman of Saar Tramways Union
1974: Elected mayor of Saarbrücken
1976: Appointed lord mayor of Saarbrücken
1977: Chairman Saar SPD
1984: Member of federal SPD central committee
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TIMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

I have to report an outburst of thoroughly undiplomatic language in Brussels. Giovanni Saragat, the Italian ambassador to Belgium, is less than popular with both his own and his host government this morning after Italian newspapers published the text of a letter he wrote to a witting Belgian tourist, Guy Paquay. Having been robbed there on holiday last summer, Paquay complained to the ambassador that Italy was nothing more than a den of thieves. His Excellency, son of former Italian president Giuseppe Saragat, responded by calling the Belgian a coward, a liar and a lout, and suggesting he seek advice from a priest or psychiatrist. "By way of greeting, I wish my foot were in the place where I hope one day some compatriot of mine will really put it." The Italian foreign ministry says it is investigating, while the Belgians say they are "surprised". Ooh, these Italians are so *macho*.

Douglas Carey, a good citizen of Southwell, Notts, recently clipped the coupon from an advertisement in this newspaper inviting him to apply to his local council for a form to claim relief from poll tax. Newark and Sherwood District Council, where mutton-headed bureaucracy is patently elevated to fine art, responded to Mr Carey with a form to fill in requesting that they send him a claim form. They should be jolly well rate-capped for such waste of time, paper and scuse.

• Tonight is Burns Night, and the gaent of Burns at the traditional Burns Supper in Skirroway will be a hilted Bernie Grant, Guyanese-born left-wing Labour MP for Tooting. Come come, there's no need to laugh; Bernie appeared on his first day in the Commons wearing Guyanese national dress. It did not, however, reveal his knees.

Beauleu, Lord Montagu's place in Hampshire, has launched an "educational programme" whereby groups of schoolchildren come for the day, are taught servants' etiquette and drill as well as how to dust, polish silver, clean boots, lay a fire and set a table. Whereupon they are assessed by Stephens the chauffeur and Patterson the first houseman on their aptitude for domestic service, and are given a certificate stating to which menial post they would be most suited. I suppose it is harmless fun and the children will no doubt love it, but I wonder if in these days of supposed equality under the National Curriculum we should be perpetuating the class system in such a manner. Mind you, my dear, it is so difficult to get servants these days.

BARRY FANTONI



"It seems they moved 'Red Container' with Hess five times before discovering it was a fire extinguisher"

Lady Olivier, I gather, is still making up her mind whether to accept an invitation to open a shopping centre in Stratford-upon-Avon on Shakespeare's birthday in April — the sort of taste usually apportioned to dim pop stars and tawdry soap opera players. Tony Bird, developer of the Maybird Centre, justifies his approach on the grounds that he has commissioned from sculptor John Blakeley a 17ft statue of Larry, the first since the actor's death last year. Bird assures me that the figure will not look gimmicky or out of place, as the centre is built of traditional timber and brick. Clad in his Henry V garb, Larry will stand in declamatory posture in the courtyard — crying God for Harry, England, Halfords, B&Q and the Co-op.

Irish teenagers apparently know woefully little about the institution of which their country currently holds the presidency. In a survey published in Dublin yesterday, only one in five correctly named Brussels as the headquarters of the EC's main institutions, and only one in eight could name the 12 member states. One third of the interviewees — all aged 16 or 17 — thought the removal of trade barriers in 1992 meant they would have to join a European army. However, they at least knew that Britain was one of the twelve; the British, said the teenagers, were "the least honest and intelligent" members of the Community. I suspect they mean the British have never had the intelligence to know what to do with the Irish, nor the honesty to admit it.

Early one morning some three weeks ago I flew to Glasgow, British Airways' shuttle return flight cost £163 — for which price I could have gone to Majorca, enjoyed a week on demi-pension in a two-star hotel and had an unforgettable coach tour of the island with a fish supper and wine thrown in. But I went to Glasgow, to take part in a late-night television talk show on Why Is Scottish Food So Awful? — which for economic reasons was recorded before lunch.

It was the customary sophisticated discussion: "It is," said one of the guests; "is not," said another; "is too," contributed the third. "Come now ladies and gentlemen," said the chairman; not memorable, unlikely to be nominated for an award. At one point I opined that what was special in the restaurant and hotel industry north of the border was

the dignity with which staff went about their work. "The people of Scotland," I said, "understand that being of service does not necessitate being servile" ... a proper subject to while away a few minutes of camera time but a lady panelist, whose first (and possibly last) TV appearance this was, came right back at me to say that her fishmonger removed the roe from herrings when everybody knew that there is simply nothing nicer in the entire world than herrings' roes on toast for breakfast.

I thought of my remark last weekend. As I ate my way north to West Sound's Burns supper, gravel diminished noticeably in the dignity with which staff went about their work. "The people of Scotland," I said, "understand that being of service does not necessitate being servile" ... a proper subject to while away a few minutes of camera time but a lady panelist, whose first (and possibly last) TV appearance this was, came right back at me to say that her fishmonger removed the roe from herrings when everybody knew that there is simply nothing nicer in the entire world than herrings' roes on toast for breakfast.

A pie shop in Coldstream — because I got hooked on mutton pies during the Hillhead by-election. The proprietor came from behind the counter, said

York I left my Symphony of Seafood because it was redolent of garlic — which I don't like — and the waiter approached with an Oh Calamity look on his face: "Sir is indubitably right and we are miserably wrong." Yuk.

At Linden Hall near Morpeth, which has one of the great staircases of Britain, the service was decent and the caramelized apple baked with lemon, butter, cinnamon and currants soaked in Bacardi really outstanding — and then to Scotland:

A pie shop in Coldstream — because I got hooked on mutton pies during the Hillhead by-election. The proprietor came from behind the counter, said

yes, they were. He was wrong.

Hospitality Inn, Glasgow. The receptionist said: "We have allocated you a non-smoking room on the fifth floor." There was no trace of smoke, just the overpowering smell of perfumed air freshener, and when I phoned to ask whether the water would get hot enough for me to bathe before dinner, she replied "We've a lot of folk in the place tonich."

Chapeltoun House, near Stew-

arton, half an hour's drive from the European city of culture. The menu showed four first courses; I ordered "sweet, cured fillet of herring with gooseberry yoghurt" — not wanting to miss what I thought might be a Lowland speciality. Along came two rolls — Suffolk from disuse they were, and the relish more suited to attaching wallpaper than garnishing plates. I cut a thin slice; it was no better than it seemed. Ten minutes later a wonderfully competent local lass whisked away the full plate with the memorable words: "Did ye like it okay?" and off she went before I could say "well now..."

Willow Tea Room, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow. I ordered a crumpet and got a pancake; so I ordered a pancake, and got a pancake of a different size. I asked my waitress for a toasting — to which Judy Stein introduced me ten years ago at a Roxburgh coffee

morning — and she (the waitress, Judy Stein is in Ettrickbridge) said "We don't do toasting after 4 o'clock", in a way suggesting everyone should know that. I apologized. She said all right.

One Devonshire Gardens is a hotel in the west end of the city. It is dramatically brilliant: dark carpets and walls, huge vases of red roses picked out by well-aimed shafts of light. Eighteen spotlights illuminate a three-table dining room containing good paintings, and the perfectly trained, handsomely dressed waitress behaved like your best friend's elder sister. I had picked salmon then really good minted pea soup and when I had eaten most of it she brought hot rolls with such presence that were I not of the trade, I would have believed that three-quarters of the way through the soup is the exact time for getting bread.

Woodrow Wyatt on the failure to stand up to the students

To the banks' discredit

atitude of the other signatories. The banks are terrified of student power, seeing students caught young with their accounts as a long-term prop to their prosperity.

In November 1986 Barclays withdrew from its highly profitable operations in South Africa after a fall in the number of new students in Britain opening accounts — part of the absurd anti-apartheid campaign to compel disinvestment there. At a lunch at the bank's London headquarters the then chairman gave me the figures and told me of Barclays' difficulties with university accounts generally. The result was that Barclays Bank in South Africa was sold to local interests and has flourished mightily ever since, thus strengthening the country's economy.

When I was in South Africa

that year black entrepreneurs to whom Barclays had given generous loans to set up businesses were greatly disturbed at the prospect of the pull-out.

The skilfully run National Union of Students has cowed the banks again. It is against student loans because the intention is that students will contribute more to their higher education and the taxpayer less. Grants will be frozen at 1990 amounts. Top-up loans will be provided for those who want them, spread over many years with an interest rate equivalent to inflation, which means in practice a zero rate of interest.

There is nothing novel in the notion. There are similar arrangements in the US and throughout northern Europe. A man of one clearing bank explained to me, all their points were eventually met except for the highly significant inclusion of Lloyds. That bank was against the scheme because it felt that it would give "too much hassle", particularly over the possibility of non-repayment of loans, that no banking skills were involved and that student loans would be "a peripheral activity".

The Government is justified in its indignation. The banks have done well out of the

staggeringly improved economic climate of the Thatcher years and they have displayed ingenuity and cowardice in not running the Student Loans Company. It is untrue that no banking skills are involved because the advice of the local bank manager on the advisability of taking out a student loan and what size it should be would have been very helpful.

The British banks complain of lack of consultation when the idea of the Student Loans Company first originated with the Civil Service. But as the chairman of one clearing bank explained to me, all their points were eventually met except for the highly significant inclusion of Lloyds. That bank was against the scheme because it felt that it would give "too much hassle", particularly over the possibility of non-repayment of loans, that no banking skills were involved and that student loans would be "a peripheral activity".

The Government is justified in its indignation. The banks have done well out of the

sector at a very large profit. They have missed an opportunity for strongly based long-term customer relationships. This is apart from failing to take part in a scheme to help fund those receiving higher education. The number is due to increase considerably over the next few years, costing the country approximately double the current £500 million paid in student grants if nothing is done. Without a loan scheme the numbers seeking higher education will have to be severely culled to avoid intolerable burdens being put upon the taxpayer.

Ronald Butt

The empire builders

it cannot completely be discounted they should be entitled to their own judgement.

As for the argument that a tightly integrated Community would help stabilize Eastern Europe, it might well make it harder to forge suitable links with East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland.

East Germany, of course, is a special case. Self-determination and justice call for eventual reunification, and whether the Community is federalist or not, there is no more reason to fear a resurgence of post-Bismarck Germany than Louis XIV's or Napoleon's France.

But more broadly, the larger the vast, centralized Brussels "empire" became, the more elusive democratic accountability would be. And what would be the impact in the Soviet Union of a new "empire" in the West such as neither Charlemagne nor Napoleon ever achieved? With the dissolution of the old order in the East, we should stand ready for new and at present unpredictable thinking, not try to bind the future to yesterday's Community visions.

To do so would be as silly as to allow our proper detestation of communism these past 45 years to make us over-suspicious of reformist communists in the USSR because they neither renounce the word nor denounce Lenin. A practical Soviet politician can no more condemn the whole of the last 75 years of Russian history than President Mitterrand can denounce 1789. Such revolutions can only be disowned by reinterpretation.

They could hardly have made clearer their distaste for the Community of "independent sovereign states co-operating freely" advocated by Mrs Thatcher in the manifesto on which they were elected. Their position implies that, in certain crucial matters, the European Parliament and a Community "government" should have primary over the Westminster Parliament and government.

M Delors wants the Commission to be a decision-making Community government. The MEPs want their Parliament to be able to call it to account. That is federalism, which is also implicit in the demand for European Monetary Union (a central economic policy requires a central government) and a binding Social Charter.

Nothing of this sort was implied when the British people confirmed membership of the Community in the 1975 referendum. But as I have argued, the issue is not any risk to national identities, which could no more be destroyed in an "integrated" Community than in the Habsburg Empire or the Soviet Union. What matters is the loss of political accountability by manageable units of nations once they were absorbed in a vast, centrally directed and bureaucratic "empire". The danger would arise from the feeling of the nations that they were being repressed, disregarded and manipulated.

But I have a helpful suggestion: Commander Taylor should get hold of PC Judd, officers Cooke and Deacon, and the slybilly (as yet unnamed) who shredded the West Midlands documents, line them up, and give them a sharp tug at the earlobe with one hand, while wagging a reproving finger at them with the other. Alternatively, when next writing to *The Times*, he should avoid words like "Let there be no doubt as to the determination of the police service to maintain the integrity of its officers and public confidence in that integrity."

I am one of those whose instinct is on the side of the police: as a child, I was taught that they were our friends, and I grew up in that belief. For many years, whenever the defendant in a trial swore that he had been framed by the police, my immediate reaction was to disbelieve him. In recent years, that seesaw has begun to tilt the other way, and cases like these help to push it further. And letters like Commander Taylor's, with their complicity and evasiveness, push it further still.

Consider the two minor but significant examples of eggs and beef. British eggs are now thought to be safer than those imported. But under the single-market regulations the country of origin of imported eggs may not be identified, though British eggs may be identified on the packing. Far from encouraging a free market, such rules deny the buyer his full, free-market right to information that may condition his choice. One may often prefer to buy some goods from one country rather than another. We should not be manipulated.

Likewise, if the Germans choose to ban British beef (however remote the danger of the transmission of "mad cow" disease to humans, we are told that

Bernard Levin, reopening the case of the drug case constable, questions the reasoning of a senior Scotland Yard officer.



edly, was that he had not. I also inquired whether, indeed, there was to be a tribunal at all; I was told that no decision had been taken. (My final inquiry, just before I published my article, was five weeks after the second case had ended.) Now read on.

With quite remarkable effrontery, Commander Taylor, in his reply published yesterday on the Letters page, twice refers to the fact that, unlike a civil action, where the burden of proof is "on the balance of probabilities", police disciplinary proceedings require a higher test — the one demanded by courts in criminal actions, viz., "beyond a reasonable doubt". It is scandalous enough that that should be so (because police disciplinary proceedings, unlike criminal trials, cannot issue in imprisonment or fine, only admonition, demotion or dismissal); it is much worse that Commander Taylor should omit any reference to the crucial fact that the test for disciplinary proceedings was changed (by the Home Office) to the higher hurdle at the urging of the police, making it virtually impossible, in cases like the Judd one, for any officer to be "convicted".

That does not exhaust Commander Taylor's omissions and elisions. He makes much of the fact that I discussed the outcome of the civil action, saying that I was out "to condemn him [Judd], destroy his career and expose him to public calumny." The Commander thus dismisses the civil case entirely, which enables him to ignore the unprecedented award of no less than £70,000 specifically for the wickedness of what had been done to the victim.

But even that is not the worst. Commander Taylor omits any reference to the criminal case which preceded the civil one — the case, that is, in which Mr Taylor was prosecuted for having, according to Judd, cannabis on him. Mr Taylor was tried and

convicted. He was wrong.

Hospitality Inn, Glasgow. The receptionist said: "We have allocated you a non-smoking room on the fifth floor." There was no trace of smoke, just the overpowering smell of perfumed air freshener, and when I phoned to ask whether the water would get hot enough for me to bathe before dinner, she replied "We've a lot of folk in the place tonich".

Chapeltoun House, near Stew-

arton, half an hour's drive from the European city of culture. The menu showed four first courses; I ordered "sweet, cured fillet of herring with gooseberry yoghurt" — not wanting to miss what I thought might be a Lowland speciality. Along came two rolls — Sufffolk from disuse they were, and the relish more suited to attaching wallpaper than garnishing plates. I cut a thin slice; it was no better than it seemed. Ten minutes later a wonderfully competent local lass whisked away the full plate with the memorable words: "Did ye like it okay?" and off she went before I could say "well now..."

Willow Tea Room, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow. I ordered a crumpet and got a pancake; so I ordered a pancake, and got a pancake of a different size. I asked my waitress for a toasting — to which Judy Stein introduced me ten years ago at a Roxburgh coffee

Ye just cannae spot the deference



CLEMENT FREUD

"You are the first famous person who has ever been in my shop, though my sister once met Wendy Craig on a bus," and shook my hand. I asked him whether his mutton pies were good. He said

morning — and she (the waitress, Judy Stein is in Ettrickbridge) said "We don't do toasting after 4 o'clock", in a way suggesting everyone should know that. I apologized. She said all right.

One Devonshire Gardens is a hotel in the west end of the city. It is dramatically brilliant: dark carpets and walls, huge vases of red roses picked out by well-aimed shafts of light. Eighteen spotlights illuminate a three-table dining room containing good paintings, and the perfectly trained, handsomely dressed waitress behaved like your best friend's elder sister. I had picked salmon then really good minted pea soup and when I had eaten most of it she brought hot rolls with such presence that were I not of the trade, I would have believed that three-quarters of the way through the soup is the exact time for getting bread.

BOOKS

Hippie hero of Beat Generation

Adrian Dannatt reviews the exotic life and times of a pioneering poet guru of our times

Good literary biography has little to do with the literary talent of the subject or of the author. It depends upon the badness of the former's life, and the latter's empathy with it. Tennyson's disclaimer "What business has the public to know of Byron's wildness? He has given them fine work and they ought to be satisfied" is the exact opposite of the principle of any enjoyable biography: the wilder the life, the less the work comes up at all.

This fat labour of love by Miles exhaustively demonstrates the long-standing bad behaviour of an evidently good man, although one unbound by convention. If God is in the details, something holy must lurk within this book's 588 pages, which do indeed reinforce through the minutiae of his life the idea of Ginsberg as secular saint, Hippie redeemer of the bourgeois universe. Certainly Ginsberg's story is so astounding that the urge to retell it is irresistible, an easy way to shirk the true responsibilities of criticism.

Allen Ginsberg was born in 1926 to a Russian immigrant family of archetypal purity, a historic cocktail of equal parts Woody Allen neurosis and the Talmudic Marxist. His mother Naomi was born and brought up in the Russian village where Chagall once lived, in a strongly intellectual, firmly Communist family. His father, born in Newark, was a teacher, poet, and lifelong socialist. Schisms between Jewish socialism and Jewish Communism added to the tension of the marriage. Even greater strain was Naomi's clinical insanity. This childhood context of derangement and disharmony provides both explanation and measure of Ginsberg's later life-style. His mother's madness was one of his recurrent obsessions,



key motif of the biography and of *Kaddish*, his long *chef d'œuvre*.

While he himself became the very lowest of low life, and kick-started that Bohemia to end all Bohemias, the Beat Generation. The only constants in this bizarre world were narcotics, polysexuality, crime, prison, and death. Reading lists of world classics were consumed along with the Benzedrine. The characters are consistently busy either killing themselves or each other. Every one of them seems exceptional in some way, usually unhealthily. The famous first line of Ginsberg's infamous "Howl", "I saw the best

minds of my generation destroyed by madness", seems demure euphemism compared to the facts. At the age of 22, Ginsberg had an ecstatic vision of Blake in East Harlem which he spent the next 15 years trying to recapture through every drug known to man and some known only to Amazon gods. If great writing depended on great experience, Ginsberg would be a certifiable genius. He has lived enough to kill any mortal twice over.

This biography makes clear that Ginsberg's poetry, and our critical opinion of it, is secondary to the richness of the life pursued in its

GINSBERG
By Barry Miles
Viking, £20

name. The extent of his attempts at derangements make it remarkable he should have produced any work at all, regardless of quality. Ginsberg's only problem has been the boundless effusion of his generosity, consistently overgenerous to friends, acquaintances, and enemies alike. He has been equally generous to every variety of religious or political cause, and unstoppably generous to his readers, a creative largesse in search of some more rigorous editing process. When Jack Kerouac had turned into an alcoholic anti-Semitic slob and William Burroughs into an ice-cold automaton, Ginsberg still gave them all of his affection and attention, always unafraid of seeming soft or sentimental. Ginsberg's lack of fear, whether protesting about human rights to the Cuban government, having tea with Edith Sitwell, or entering the black hole of the cosmos through Yage hallucination, is only matched by his hunger for experience, spiritual, intellectual, sexual,

narcotic. Ginsberg and his generation transformed Western culture from the cerebral to the illidinal, from control to pleasure. This transformation was partly through their writings (that is the extent of their importance), but largely by personal example whose bravery we have all benefited from.

The present cultural climate may have moved back in reaction to something approximating the conformity of the Fifties, but we are not yet time-travellers: the freedoms won by Ginsberg and his fellow adventurers cannot be physically reversed. However tempting to try to deny the idealism of

the Sixties, a tiny fraction of Ginsberg's curiosity might come, contemporary cynics. A Peyote Ritual or two could do wonders for a whole breed of contemporary British writers, or with luck wipe them out altogether. Ginsberg's life has been one of endless experimentation and revelation, enough to shame one of the routines and petty limits of one's own life, daring one to be a little more courageous, suggesting it might not be an irreversible disaster to live a little more, a little further out.

The range of characters is so wide, from Auden to Warhol and every-which-way in between (though the Tom Dibberg orgy is lacking here, as in Dibberg's biography), the anecdotes are so unbelievable, the locations shifting as fluidly as the lives, that no reader could fail to be entertained. The milieu of Ginsberg's upbringing, among Upstate Marxists and 1st camps, is no less intriguing than the holy retreats of Tibet or communes of New Mexico. As film the script would be considered too fast for credibility.

Ginsberg wrote some genuinely innovative and sometimes democratically beautiful verse, but this is not, thank heavens, his collected poetry. Instead, it is a life so dramatic, so dangerous, so committed to hard-voiced truth, that his survival is a miracle, his kindness, wisdom and modesty a mysterious blessing. Reading Richard Holmes's *Coleridge*, I find it hard to think of a modern equivalent to that man's genius at existence. But Ginsberg comes close in breadth and depth of travel, friendship, love, adventure, life. That Ginsberg's poetry and Miles's biography do not match Coleridge and Holmes should not deter any reader from the lure and moral of reading them.

Egghead Rule, OK?

Peter Jones

THE HELLENISTIC STOA
Political Thought and Action
By Andrew Erskine
Duckworth, £29.95

Zeno, the first Stoic (335-263 BC), was regarded as a dangerously radical thinker. As he strolled up and down the Painted Stoa in Athens, unfolding his thoughts to those gathered around him on such uncontroversial issues as the abolition of money, of private property, and of marriage, he would have been greatly surprised (and probably rather annoyed) to be assured that in a few hundred years a form of Stoicism that stood for everything he detested would become the ruling philosophy of a Roman elite, which controlled the largest empire in the world.

Virtually all of our information about the early Stoics comes from people writing hundreds of years later. Erskine sees the turning point not in simple lack of philosophical interest in Zeno's principles, but in the Stoics' political involvement, especially in Cleomenes' Spartan revolution of 227 BC. Up till then, Stoics had behaved like your average ancient philosopher – humbly designing an ideal society. But Cleomenes, advised by the Stoic Sphaerius, actually put Stoic principles into effect, cancelling all debts and redistributing all land equally.

It does not need a philosopher to predict what the outcome was: catastrophic. The result was that the Stoic split, hard-liners still clinging to Zeno's pure first principles, the trimmers looking for modifications to them, and particularly attracted to the ever-expanding power of Rome. It was, of course, ever thus. Dangle a carrot before a philosopher, and even the most hardened nihilist will acknowledge that carrots do exist and can be extraordinarily tasty. By the time of the Roman Empire, Stoics were arguing that slavery – which Zeno ferociously attacked – was indeed quite a healthy thing, first because men became slaves by *fatum* anyway (good Stoic doctrine, that), but second because the best should rule over the worst (so empire was justified too).

I suspect that this highly speculative book will stir fruitful controversy among philosophers and historians alike.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are the sons, by two marriages, of a man known only as Father. Matthew is half-mad; Mark and Luke are strange doting twins, the one characterless, the other mentally retarded; John is simply sad. Theirs is a family for whom happiness has always been a struggle, who now live on the lifeless Lancashire moors, haunted by the ghosts of Father's wives, angelic Mary, who died giving birth to John, and selfless Anne, who was murdered.

In *A Lonely Place* opens with Father setting down in confessional form the story of his life, from birth at the beginning of the century to his wife's unsolved murder and a son's suicide. Then, with notes and letters, John, Matthew, and Mark take the story up to 1987, adding their testaments, like apostles writing about the Father after his death. They all claim guilt for the deaths – only the truth according to John does not tally with that of Matthew, or of Mark, or Luke. So who is right?

Religious – and anti-religious – threads are easily plucked from the narrative, but never as a tightly woven scheme. The sons, for instance, are men tormented by doubt, and the question of whether Father loves them; the suffering inflicted on them by

their omnipotent father is like C. S. Lewis's God shouting through a megaphone of pain". Matthew's suicide is at once Christ-like, in that a son gives up his life for love of his father, and the opposite, the result of anarchic visions in which life is a prison best escaped. There are no straight answers to the questioning.

But the characters are not always head-held-in-hands, thinking about the eternals. There is a reassuring measure of thought about beer and dominoes at the White Lion, football, unions and strikes, rations and conscription. Though its impetus comes from a transition from family saga to precise psychological drama, the novel offers a solid social portrait of the North, incorporating the Depression, the wars, the post-war boom, and Thatcherism.

James Poyser wrote this, his first novel, at the age of 20. And it is not remarkable for that alone. With every sentence his writing clamps one to his distinctive world. But just occasionally, like the cold "otherworlds" of, say, *Wuthering Heights* or Edith Wharton's *Ethan Frome*, where

passions are equally racked, one feels the need of a narrator for the perspective of a commonsense outsider. It takes more than material props of coal-tar soap, flat caps, and the baker's daughter to anchor all this tortured introduction. *The Other Side* sounds potentially theological too, and in a way it is – except that Paradise would be the Atlantic Ocean, with this side of it and the other, Ireland

and the United States. It deals with four generations of an Irish-American family, as they return to the house of the dying Ellen and Vincent MacNamara. And what a family. There's Magdalene, a beauty salon manageress who went to bed with hypochondria 20 years ago and never got up again. There's evangelical Theresa, plus husband, imbecile son with rotting teeth, and daughter who was a nun until she was caught in bed with a priest. There's good old Dan and long-dead John, and names like Darcie, Staci, Diamond, Cam, Ramon, and Jeremiah. Every possible combination of cousin and aunt have dark familial thoughts about each other. It goes on and on and on.

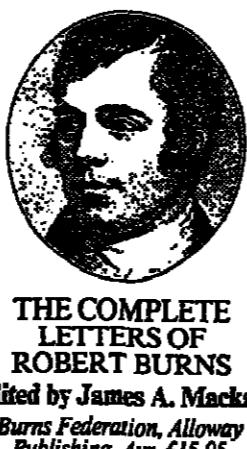
Underneath all this structured, humourless honouring of everybody's every emotion is the original tale of spirit and adventure how Ellen – the grand matriarch of the MacNamara clan – grew up unhappily in a provincial Irish town, and stole her father's money to run away to America and make her way through lies and deceit. If only that was not related through the

haze of smiley recollection. Mary Gordin is so good on ambivalence towards the Home Country, as both green and honest Erin and the land of drunks and corrupt priests, so sharp in her portrayal of a nonagenarian marriage, and sparky in comment, that the muddled whole disappoints.

The title may have lost something in translation, but a lack of sharpness dulls the length of Henri Troyat's *An Act of Treachery*. Seventeen-year-old Vincent, looking back to the events of his youth in Paris at the end of the war, recalls how he angrily sought his mother's death with his father's remarriage and the fall of France. Devoted to his sister Valérie, who lets him stay in her flat, he can hardly bear it when she seems to desert him by falling in love with Hervé, a glamorous Resistance worker. Little does he know that his one chance to spite Hervé will also lose him Valérie forever. The grown-up Vincent is too resigned about writing his heart out, but Troyat's visual sense is strong on the effects of war on restaurants, schools, flats and the commercial smiles of collaborating Parisians. If indulged with a bit of mental lingering here and soft-focusing there, this has all the makings of a poignant "little brothers don't count" tale.

Why has it taken 200 years to get an accurate, comprehensive and reasonably priced edition of the letters which for style and subtlety bear comparison with the Boswell journals? Burns, who mentions in 1794 collecting "any letters I have written", obviously meant them to be published. Nowhere does he give us a more entertaining account of himself, or one which so thoroughly removes the shroud of myth surrounding him.

F. W. Freeman



THE COMPLETE LETTERS OF ROBERT BURNS
Edited by James A. Mackay
Burns Federation, Alloway
Publishing, 4yr, £15.95

correspondence, especially, he explains his two reasons for using the *Scots tongue*: (i) the vogue in England for Scots-tipped pastoral verse; (ii) his endeavour (inspired by the Scots-English of the songs and ballads) not only to find the word most suitable to "the idea of the stanza" but also "the most agreeable modulation of syllables". Burns knew what he was doing in discounting advice to give up writing in Scots (such as it was) and in affecting a "scarcity of English". Through such affection he would often get his way with editors.

What comes across in the letters is a subtle and manipulative artist: humble in appealing to lords for career advancement; otherwise, fierce in inveigling against class inequality, ingratiating in winning over the intelligentsia; ruthless in psychoanalysing them.

Even his sentimental letters to Agnes McLehose are illuminating when seen in relation to his literary masks:

... never woman more intirely possessed my soul. – I know myself and how far I can depend on passions. Well. – It has been my peculiar study. –

Indeed it had been. His advice to his brother, William, was to "try for intimacy as soon as you feel the first symptoms of the passion". Yet there is his serious side in many reflections on the rational basis of religion.

As R. L. Stevenson says of Burns: "There was never a man of letters with more absolute command of his means". Judging from the letters of the man, he is not far wrong.

In step with the odd God squad

Eric James

TRADITION AND TRUTH
The Challenge of England's Radical Theologians, 1962-1989
By David L. Edwards
Hodder & Stoughton, £14.95

quired reading for the intelligent layman as well as those ordained. Professor Dennis Nineham, Emeritus Professor of Theology, Bristol University, has been writing for many years with the question of the "difference between diverse cultures and the difficulty we have as a result in (i) understanding, and (ii) appropriating, the attitudes and beliefs of cultures very different from our own", and thus the question of the cultural conditioning of the New Testament in relation to us in our culture.

Professor John Hick has been grappling with the equally important question of Christianity among the world's religions – notably in *The Myth of Christian Uniqueness*, which he edited with Paul F. Knitter. "In general," Hick writes "my regretful perception is that Edwards has not transcended the sense of comfortable superiority endemic among Western Christians who see the religious life of the rest of the world through narrow, tinted church windows."

The fact that David Edwards's appointment of himself as an "honest broker" to interpret the radical theologians to the church and to the world has not produced the desired dialogue has in no way diminished either the need of it or its importance. And Edwards's examination of the ideas of the theologians, their responses, and his own proposal of what he regards as a more positive way, is not without reward for the reader.

THE COMPLETE FACTS ON SCHOOL BOARDS



The Times' Scottish Education Supplement's school boards guide has now been reprinted as a 32-page information pack. The School Boards guide (first published TSES 13/10/89 - 1/12/89) is presented in an attractive and durable plastic wallet. It is available for only £2.50. To order your copy simply complete the coupon below. For orders of over 25 special rates apply, please contact Joan Snadden on (031) 220 1155.

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HEALTH

When the patient is struck off

What happens if your doctor exercises his right to choose? Jane Bidder reports

Does your doctor think you are a pain in the neck? And could he send you packing if, under the new GP pay structure, he finds you "un-economic" because you take up too much time? Such fears were raised this week in Parliament by Labour MPs including Harriet Harman, the shadow minister for Health. But, despite promises by the Health Secretary, Kenneth Clarke, to investigate, the fact remains that your GP can ask you to move on without so much as an explanation.

Last month Sandra Daly, a 25-year-old first-time mother, received a brief note from her GP. It ended: "You clearly have no faith in us and I think it is better for all of us if you change your doctor."

Daly, an insurance broker, and her husband Christopher, aged 27, were dumbfounded. "It was the culmination of a long problem which had started with our nine-month-old son Scott, who developed a dreadful cold," she says. "I took him once a week for two months to our doctor and it was only on the last visit that he was found to have an infection."

A month later, he became very ill again, with vomiting and a raging temperature. I rang the doctor and panicked, saying I wanted a doctor within an hour. I felt the receptionist was rude to me — although I accept that I might have been abrupt myself — and I put the phone down. The doctor rang two hours later and asked why I'd upset his receptionist. My husband told him we were taking Scott to casualty. He was admitted to hospital for four days with bronchitis. Just after we'd taken him in, the doctor called at our house to see Scott and left the note.

"I don't know of another surgery that I can walk to — I don't drive — and I can't believe what has happened. I feel very angry and rejected. The Family Practitioner Committee has just sent me a list of other doctors in the area, but apparently I have to be interviewed before they will accept me."

It often comes as a nasty shock to patients that a doctor has a legal right to remove them from their books without giving a reason, just as a patient can change practices without explanation. A doctor cannot, however, strike off a patient who requires treatment within the next seven days.

The problem increases if patients find their reputations precede them to the new doctor.

In April, amendments to the National Health Service (General Medical and Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 1974 will come into force. Each practice will have to distribute leaflets listing its services; the name, sex, and date of qualification of doctors; surgery times; arrangements for home visits; and information about staff. The practice will also have to publish an annual report giving details of the number of hospital referrals made, the use of hospital diagnostic services, and so on.

The idea is to help both new and existing patients know more about a practice and so have a better chance of making a suitable match with a like-minded GP.

The amendment will not, however, prevent doctors from showing patients the door without explanation. This concerns Toby Harris, director of the Association of Community Health Councils, a Government-inspired body which acts as a layman's medical watchdog. "Under the new pay structure for GPs, it could be advantageous to get rid of high-cost patients who are constantly taking up their time or proving troublesome," he says. "It's very worrying that GPs don't have to say why they want patients to move on — there should be some reason, for the patient's peace of mind."

To help avoid such problems, each Community Health Council (CHC) can advise upset patients or point them towards suitable practices (even though it cannot make personal recommendations).

But the system falls down if a doctor will not take on a patient, if, for example, his books are full. So



YOUR DOCTOR DOES NOT NEED
YOU

the area's Family Practitioner Committee (FPC) of local medics and lay people, which administers the contracts of family practitioners, might then allocate a doctor to a patient. The GP can then appeal and, if the appeal is upheld, the FPC has to find another doctor. This arrangement can be unsatisfactory for both sides: a patient might resent being shunted into a practice which he might not like, while a doctor might not appreciate having another patient thrust upon him.

The number of allocations in some areas appears to be increasing. Islington CHC points out that its neighbouring FPC allocated only eight patients between 1986-1987, rising to 28 in 1987-88 and 83 in 1988-89. There are no national statistics available to confirm the trend.

Some unhappy patients point out that they cannot tell if doctors refuse to take them on because they have a "bad" reputation or because their lists are really full. It can also be tricky to transfer doctors within a practice, as Gwen, a 68-year-old former health visitor, discovered

after she had "politely" criticized her GP for treatment to wean her off tranquilizers.

"I discovered her methods were out of date when I went to a self-help group and was referred to a well-known consultant, who was amazed at the treatment I received," she says. "When I went back to tell her how annoyed I was, my GP agreed to arrange for me to be seen by another doctor in the practice. She, however, voiced doubts about accepting me in view of my criticism of the first doctor, so my husband then asked his GP within the practice if he'd see me instead. Two weeks later we received a note through the door asking us to go elsewhere."

"My husband went to see three of the doctors to discuss the matter, but they hardly said a word. I felt very rejected and it also affected my recovery from tranquilizers. I certainly believe there should have been some kind of adjudication between the doctor and myself, especially as our relationship up to that date had been very good."

Gwen and her husband then approached three other practices,

whose lists were full, but eventually, through writing a personal letter to a former medical contact, they were taken on by a husband and wife team. "I was very worried they'd assume I was a difficult patient, but when I gave a brief explanation of my history, the woman GP made no comment. We were grateful to find a practice, although it is 10 minutes' drive away, which isn't that convenient at our age. Two years on, we've been told our doctors — whom we get on very well with — can only take people from their immediate catchment area, so we're having to see them privately to get round the boundary predicament."

Meanwhile, it is not easy for the doctor when faced with genuinely awkward customers: "Patients can be violent or abusive, not only to the doctor but also to his staff, whom he has a duty to protect," says Linda Cuthbertson of the British Medical Association. "It's not a good idea for a doctor to carry on if a relationship has broken down. It's rather like going to a lawyer: you have to get on with him."

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Laying down the law gently

BREATHING SPACE



MICHAEL GRADE

I've been doing these exercises I haven't been back for a while.

Temperamentally I enjoy physical exertion, but it has to be golf, sailing, skiing — something with a purpose to it. I ski, and I went sailing last February, which was quite exhausting. Golf is good for a walk, and I usually carry my own golf-bag these days.

The only way I sustain my energy is because I enjoy what I'm doing. I find it very exhilarating. I leave home about 8.30 if I don't have a breakfast meeting, and rarely get back before 11 o'clock at night. There's always something to do — speaking, going to a dinner, or the theatre — that's work-related. The great relaxation is a good nap in the afternoon at the weekend. I can sleep anywhere; you've got to catch up somehow. I don't sleep wonderfully well at night — I suppose, as you get older, you don't need that much sleep — but I always get back to sleep again.

I don't do much foreign travel these days. It's mostly around Britain — trains and cars and things. I sleep like a baby on an aircraft. I enjoy long flights, because of the lovely peace and quiet — nobody can get to me. If anybody starts talking to me, I tell them I'm an insurance agent, and that shuts them up. I'm dreading the day when more aircraft have telephones.

Mental health is the key, and that means having a balance in your life, getting a respite. Television does take over your life. As I get older I work a bit harder at creating a balance and getting away from work as much as possible.

The key to enjoy it. If you're in a job and you don't enjoy it, it's murder, an endless marathon of exhaustion. I'm very lucky to be in this business — there are so many aspects to it, it's terrific.

Interview by Pamela Nowicka

Feet first into the world

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Few babies have had such an adventurous first fortnight of life as Charles Hocking, and it is still six weeks before he was due to have been born. He was the baby who, because he was in the premature baby unit at St Thomas's Hospital, London, was spared by the woman who later kidnapped Alexandra Griffiths.

Charles's delivery was dramatic. His antics *in utero* had kept Patricia Hocking, his mother, awake throughout the night before his arrival. It was more than just kicking, she said, it was more as if he was dancing on a trampoline. She was so alarmed that she felt it wise to see Anthony Kenny, her obstetrician, who arranged for her to attend a clinic at another hospital along with some routine gynaecological patients.

When Kenny examined her he was as amazed as she to find she was already in labour. And not only was Charles about

to enter the world, but he was going to do it feet rather than head first; one foot could already be felt through the membranes, although the rest of the baby was firmly ensconced within the partially open womb.

If the membranes had ruptured, the cord carrying the life-preserving oxygen might have prolapsed and become obstructed, with possibly fatal consequences for the baby, so his delivery became a matter of extreme urgency. Kenny put Hocking into his car and drove to St Thomas's as fast as possible. Charles was delivered by immediate

Caesarean section. He is now beginning to feed well — the suck reflex is often one of the last to become well-established — and weighs 4lb 12oz.

One baby in four lies in the uterus feet downwards — the breech position — at some stage of early pregnancy, but by the 32nd week 60 per cent of them have done a somersault, and at term fewer than 5 per cent are still in the breech position, either leading with their feet — a footling presentation — or their bottom.

Even in the best units, breech deliveries carry a much heavier mortality risk than normal deliveries, so that although managing a breech used to be considered a fine exposition of the obstetrician's art, it is now never done when other factors could compromise the baby's chances such as in the Hocking case, which was complicated by the prematurity of the baby and, by midwifery standards, the advanced age of the mother — 34.

The first two — Unicard (dilevalol) made by Schering-Plough, and Selectol (celiprolol) by Rorer Health Services — have similar properties. It is claimed that they do not cause restlessness by inducing or increasing asthma, or lead to peripheral vascular disease. Other betablockers have an adverse effect on the serum fat, cholesterol in particular, but the new ones are reported to be free of this disadvantage.

Time will show whether this property will enable betablockers to reduce the number of cases of coronary thrombosis in hypertensive patients as effectively as it has cut the death rate from strokes.

Patients with poor kidney function may not be able to tolerate the new betablockers.

betablockers are among the most commonly prescribed groups of drugs, their advent made it possible to treat blood pressure without inflicting severely incapacitating side-effects on patients, but even the later selective betablockers are not entirely free of them.

They may not cause such heavy sedation by day, or nightmares at night, but many patients complain that their intellect is not quite so sharp as before, and that dreams are still vivid and sleep light. Cold extremities are a constant problem, causing such diverse symptoms as cold, blue hands and feet, impotence and accelerated balding. More serious are the effects on asthma, which is made worse, and mild heart strain, which can be increased.

The new generation of betablockers is available on the Continent and in Ireland, but is still undergoing trials in the United Kingdom. Provided that they meet the approval of the Committee on Safety of Medicines, the drugs are due to be launched later in the year.

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They may not cause such heavy sedation by day, or nightmares at night, but many patients complain that their intellect is not quite so sharp as before, and that dreams are still vivid and sleep light. Cold extremities are a constant problem, causing such diverse symptoms as cold, blue hands and feet, impotence and accelerated balding. More serious are the effects on asthma, which is made worse, and mild heart strain, which can be increased.

The new generation of betablockers is available on the Continent and in Ireland, but is still undergoing trials in the United Kingdom. Provided that they meet the approval of the Committee on Safety of Medicines, the drugs are due to be launched later in the year.

The first two — Unicard (dilevalol) made by Schering-Plough, and Selectol (celiprolol) by Rorer Health Services — have similar properties. It is claimed that they do not cause restlessness by inducing or increasing asthma, or lead to peripheral vascular disease. Other betablockers have an adverse effect on the serum fat, cholesterol in particular, but the new ones are reported to be free of this disadvantage.

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Victims of Soviet censors

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

Just as researchers from all over the world have been using America's Freedom of Information Act these last few years to uncover the deepest and darkest secrets of the FBI and the CIA, so the documentary-maker Roger Graef has become the first to realize that *glasnost* and *perestroika* can be used to unlock the archives of the KGB.

In by far the most intriguing and terrifying of the "Soviet Spring" programmes thus far, last night's *Signals* on Channel 4 entered the vaults of the KGB to examine precise details of the destruction of art and artists in the Soviet Union these last 70 years. Graef has turned *glasnost* back on itself, to work with the Commission for the Literary Legacy of Banned Soviet Writers. In a masterly weave of dramatized extracts from forbidden scripts (superbly performed by Tom Courtenay, Brian Cox, Bill Paterson and Julie Covington) and interviews with the people who for decades suppressed them, Graef created a chilling tapestry of censorship and state murder.

The censor himself, interviewed about the banning of Solzhenitsyn's *Gulag Archipelago*, noted simply that it might have brought down the roof. "A man who personally killed many Soviet artists said that he would cheerfully do it again, if that was what the State required."

But to be a poet in Russia has always meant also being a hero, and the total control exercised by the KGB had certain ironies. When Bulgakov got his diaries back from them shortly before his death, he burned them in a rage, unaware that the KGB had filed a copy, which is now available for students of his work.

The entire history of modern literature in the Soviet Union this century has passed through prisons and death camps, and Graef's film was all the more effective for its ice-cold determination simply to uncover the details of destruction that resulted from Stalin's terror of any original thought.

"You find the person, we will find a reason for his death" was the official arts policy of the time, and the awful underlying message was that everyone in this programme clearly believed that it could all so easily happen again. In his last interview, three days before he died, Andrei Sakharov told *Signals*: "There is *glasnost* but still no freedom of speech."

And Graef's thoughtful investigation deserves all the BAFTA awards it will doubtless get, for chronicling a story of literary terror which might too easily be overlooked in the name of the new Soviet friendship. Graef has disproved the convenient and much-loved thesis that art can transcend politics. In the Soviet Union of this century, it did nothing of the sort, and the graves and the files are the evidence of it.

St John's Smith Square
TONIGHT AT 7.30
ANNETTE SERVADEI
plays
works by
CHOPIN, RAVEL,
MUSSORGSKY,
PAUL BEN-HAIM,
GORDON KERRY (World Prem.)
G.5.13 - Box Office 01-22 1001

Hilary Finch meets husband-and-wife opera singers Philip Langridge and Ann Murray, playing lovers in a new ENO production

THE ARTS

Together in perfect disharmony

Berlioz's final opera, *Beatrice and Benedict*, ends with the lines: "Today a truce is signed: we'll become enemies again tomorrow." The two lovers, after much ado, agreed to marry only after a spirited quarrel. Their life begins in earnest.

When Ann Murray and Philip Langridge took the title roles in Ronald Eyre's 1980 production for the Buxton Festival, Murray threw a cup of Bovril at Langridge in a heated argument just before the first night. A year later, they were married. They had originally met in 1975 at a rehearsal for Beethoven's Ninth, three years later, at Opera North. This time, David Alden took a few very large side-steps by setting Berlioz's elusive, bitter-sweet "caprice written with the point of a needle" amongst the gore and black comedy of the Crimea.

Berlioz at Buxton was something of a turning point in both their private and public lives. Did this make it particularly difficult to return to the work 10 years on? Murray claims they have both come to Tim Albery's new production for English National Opera "having blocked out the earlier memories. Everything is so different now. Then we were quite footloose and fancy-free; now, with a three-year-old son, work has to be more calculated and organized. And we've both been through the mill in our careers since then..."

Langridge, who has gone through the torments of an Aron, an Iddomeno, a Laca, a Verc, an Aschenbach and a Grimes, finds Berlioz's portrayal of innocence the greatest challenge. "We may be

more experienced, but that only makes innocence all the harder to play. It's easy to play wise when you're still young, but the other way round..."

Ronald Eyre's Buxton production was the first really to give the work dramatic credibility in Britain, though Colin Davis has championed its music on record in the 1960s, and Mark Elder (who conducts for the Coliseum) had found himself playing bassoon in the pit at a Cambridge University Opera Society production reviewed here by the late William Mann in 1967. Eyre's production gave the impetus for another *Beatrice and Benedict*, three years later, at Opera North. This time, David Alden took a few very large side-steps by setting Berlioz's elusive, bitter-sweet "caprice written with the point of a needle" amongst the gore and black comedy of the Crimea.

The opera has certainly not been without difficulties in making a dramatic case for itself. It is moulded as much from Berlioz's romantic response to Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* as Verdi's *Macbeth*, *Otello* and *Falstaff* are from his; but too much of the serious side of the story, perhaps, had been cut for English taste.

Nobody seemed quite at ease with its proportions or tone of voice. Above all, the long French dialogues sat uneasily with Shakespeare's pungent turns of phrase.

Marty Crankshaw has been working with ENO's cast on a new Englishing of Berlioz's French



ALAN WELLER

responsibility for the lyrical drama.

Murray is gearing herself up for the aria of the evening in which she will have to recreate "a feeling of ecstasy, but with both great dramatic strength and the vocal ease of a child who realises for the first time that she's becoming a woman."

Langridge is customarily the one who brings the work home, worrying away at its problems and chattering incessantly about detail. Murray claims she prefers to keep quiet and get on with the job. Do this *Beatrice* and this *Benedict* spend much time dissecting each other's roles? "He hasn't spoken at all during this one." "She's right. We discuss it in rehearsal, of course, but these days there's too much else to talk about when we get home."

Like their respective schedules for the next year, which seem to coincide only in November, when they appear in *La Clemenza di Tito* together in Zurich. Murray played Sesto when the production was new last October, but this will be Langridge's first *Tito*.

Murray says: "He'll find himself in a lacquered black box of a set, in modern classical dress, and greatly troubled by the affairs of state in his briefcase..."

• *Beatrice and Benedict* has its first performance tonight at the Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 and continues in repertory with English National Opera. There are further performances on Saturday, on January 31 and during February, with the final performance this season on March 1.

Unconvinced by low-life types

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

Savage in Limbo

Duke of Cambridge

If the name John Patrick Shanley means anything to you, it is probably because of the script he wrote for the movie *Moonstruck*. You are less likely to have caught his *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*, a stage play that came from Off-Broadway briefly to rumble the London fringe in 1985.

As I recall, it was an urban fairytale about the regenerative effect of love on a human ogre who spent much of the evening in a frenzy of hatred and murderous rage. If Mills and Boon had commissioned a work from one of the more ferocious Jacobines, the result might have looked like Shanley's play.

His *Savage in Limbo* is an awkward mix too, though not so extreme a one. All the characters clustered in his Bronx bar are dreadfully lonely and some seem bitter and even rancorous. But by the end disatisfied, fidgety Tony has agreed to shack up with good-hearted Linda, who has clandestinely borne him a child. Grumpy Murk has proposed marriage to crazy April, who has never got over not becoming a nun. Only Denise Savage, the ageing virgin who gives the play its somewhat portentous title, is left intoning "This is not life," "Ain'tcha tired of living if you think this is all living is?" and so on.

They are at ease neither with the low-life setting nor with Shanley's earnest ruminations about human



Watery one for the road? Barman and customer in *Savage in Limbo*

believe a word of it; and am still not altogether sure how to distribute the blame. The group at the Duke of Cambridge pub-theatre in Kentish Town quaintly call themselves the Uneasy In My Easy Chair Theatre Company, and are at times even more uneasy than they would presumably wish.

They are at ease neither with the low-life setting nor with Shanley's earnest ruminations about human

isolation, nor with his sporadic attempts to be funny.

One moment, all is semi-demarticulate Bronzese. The next, someone is comparing their collective predicament to "dead leaves floating in the water". There is a persistent feeling that a rather literary playwright and a clean-cut cast are slumming.

Indeed, one quirk of Bryce Peers' production seemed to sum up much of the evening. These loners and aggressive losers order wine, brandy, alexanders, and other drinks; and the booze that materializes next to the barman's symbolically withered plants is, in every case, quite unmistakably water.

When we avoided the easy tempts of neo-classicism, as in the String Quartet No 5 played here, a much more compelling personality emerges. This Quartet of 1938 seems to have extra-musical origins in reflecting an emotional break-up between himself and a student 25 years his junior, but without detracting from the key to his individuality.

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One hallmark of their playing is in the weight given to the writing for inner parts, which invariably came through separately when

Extending musical horizons

As Stephen Petitt pointed out with regard to the first of these two Tallis Scholars concerts, Peter Phillips and his singers are helping us not only to appreciate Renaissance polyphony but also to appreciate differences of style.

The extent of those differences was neatly suggested here in the programme note, with its proposition that Josquin is to Ockeghem as Piero della Francesca is to Rogier van der Weyden, though perhaps that comparison more fully dramatizes the gap between pictorial and musical awareness in this period for most of us.

But if Josquin and Ockeghem are ever to seem so shockingly separate, it will be because of performances like this, showing up particularities by coming at both composers in the same way: with strong flowing movement in each part and in the texture as a whole, with beautifully precise intonation, with intensely clear and stable soprano tone, and with luminous chording.

The balance is perfectly maintained through dynamic changes.

These first half of the programme used two voices on each line: enough to obscure the singers' personal timbres, which would be inappropriate here, but not enough to obscure the music's clarity.

In the context of four Josquin pieces, Ockeghem's *Salve Regina* was wonderfully rich and strange, with its long melodies, sonorous bass pedals and darker harmonic movement. Where Josquin lays out in each piece a Renaissance of harmony, the itinerary clear almost from the first notes, Ockeghem's plan is discovered as the music unfolds, so that one can scarcely see more than a bar or two at a time.

But such moments of drama are rare in this music, whose steady slow pace, occasionally alleviated by quick ornament in the top line, has some flavour of the organ.

Once again the Tallis Scholars can be thanked for having expanded our musical world.

Style and a certain sense of vision

CONCERTS

Paul Griffiths

Tallis Scholars

St John's, Smith Square

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there was something significant to say, yet remained essentially elements within a polished ensemble.

After Martini's emotional disturbance, strident harmonies and often displaced rhythms, the E-flat Quartet (Op 51) by Dvořák (who is another focus of this series), sounded pleasantly sociable, seldom raising its voice even when the dance measures of the *danse* movement and the finale brought out an authentic Bohemian brogue.

Yet the players recognized that simplicity and directness are major virtues in lifting the music's local colour into a wider perspective, and in Haydn's D-major Quartet (Op 71, No 2) at the start of the programme, they conveyed some of the visionary quality that lies below its surface.

At least the amateurs caught the baroque spirit

section, of course, consists for the most part of choral movements.

However, even they began shakily, with an opening "Kyrie eleison" which became faster as each bar passed. The same problem bedevilled the "Christe eleison", sung by the ill-matched pair of Margaret Marshall and Kathleen Kuhlmann, who, with the other solo singers, were bafflingly placed behind the orchestra.

Here, moreover, there were disagreements about intonation, exacerbated rather than disguised by each singer's wide vibrato, while the absence of light and shade in their phrasing made one suspect that Bach was being disallowed his say.

So it also seemed in the first solo aria, "Laudamus te", but here the fault was more that of the obbligato violinist, Maciej Rakowski,

who set off at a tremendous pace, turning what should be a deliciously elaborate line into an assault course to be negotiated as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Fortunately there were more sensitive instrumentalists about. Neil Black's oboe d'amore solo in "Qui tollis" and William Bennett's flute line in the slow-paced "Benedictus" were beautifully controlled.

Welsh National OPERA

ON TOUR SPRING & SUMMER

Der Rosenkavalier Sung in English

Mozart Così fan tutte Sung in Italian

Weber Der Freischütz Sung in English

Rossini The Barber of Seville Sung in English

Verdi Otello Sung in Italian

Tormak Sung in English

BOOKING NOW OPEN:

CARDIFF NEW THEATRE 0222 394611
18 February-10 March
15 May-2 June
BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME 021 527 4386
13-17 March, 12-16 June
OXFORD APOLLO THEATRE 0805 244544
13-17 March, 10-14 April
SOUTHAMPTON MAYFLOWER THEATRE 0703 227771
13-17 March, 20-24 April
BRISTOL HIPPODROME 0272 299444
17-21 April
SWANSEA GRAND THEATRE 0343 284466
13-17 April
LIVERPOOL EMPIRE THEATRE 0151 2042222
13-17 April
MANCHESTER PALACE 061 301000
12-16 April

Argument still rages over whether one should play baroque music on period-style instruments or on modern ones. As long as a performance represents a fair attempt to get to the heart of the music, it should not matter. This reading of Bach's B minor Mass was of no help, however, to those who favour 19th-century rather than 18th-century style.

The problem was not that the English Chamber Orchestra was playing modern-style instruments, nor even that the conductor, Jeffrey Tate, made no attempt to encourage 18th-century articulation. It was simply that the performance seemed to have been assembled so carelessly. Misjudgements of speed, balance and ensemble abounded, while the soloists were either miscast or mishandled.

In fact, the most satisfying contributions of the evening came from the only amateur musicians on the platform, the singers of the Tallis Chamber Choir. Their bright, young voices did not always negotiate these testing lines perfectly, but they nevertheless seemed ignited by the spirit of the music and, often in league with the ECO's three splendid, strong trumpeters, gave us some thrilling moments to recall. One's mood was lifted considerably once the Credo had got under way, this

Stephen Pettitt

B minor Mass

Barbican Hall

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THE LAST NIGHT OF

INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN



BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only
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THEATRE
LONDON

★ DIVERSIONS AND DELIGHTS: Oscar Wilde looks back on his life in Donald Sinden's one-man show. Limited season.

Playhouse Theatre, Northumberland Ave, WC2 (01-839 4401). Tube: Embankment. Mon-Fri 8pm, 25-15. (D)

★ JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELL: Peter O'Toole gives his best and funniest performance in years as the well-known man-about-Soho locked into his favourite pub overnight and meeting figures from his past.

Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (01-437 2600). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Fri 8.30-11pm, Sat 8.45-11.5pm, mat Sat 5.30-8pm, 25-21.5. (D)

★ KRAUSS'S LAST TAPE: Catastrophe! David Hare workflow in a most successful Cuckoo Double. A Cuckoo's unique political play for this author, it is dedicated to Vladek Turner. Riverside Studios, Crisp Rd, W6 (01-748 3354). Tube: Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 8pm, 25-27.50. (D)

★ MA RAYNE'S BLACK BOTTOM: Carol Woods as the legendary blues singer in August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning play about black musicians in white Hollywood. National Theatre (Coates), South Bank, SE1 (01-922 2252). Tube: Waterloo. Thurs-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, 25.50. In repertory. (D)

★ OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD: Triple award-winning play by Timberlake Wertenbaker, set in New South Wales 200 years ago where a batch of convicts are ordered to build a fort. Garsington Theatre, Church Lane, EC2 (01-378 6107). Tube: Leicester Sq. Mon-Thurs 8-10.20pm, Fri and Sat 8.15-10.35pm, mats Fri and Sat 7.20pm, 25.50-15. (D)

★ RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET: Cult hit crams *7th Heaven*, sci-fi and rock 'n' roll into a crazy show. Cambridge Theatre, Seven Dials, WC2 (01-379 5259). Tube: Leicester Sq. Mon-Fri 8-10.20pm, Sat 8.20-11pm, mat Sat 8pm, 27.50-21.50. (D)

LONG RUNNERS:
★ Cat: New London Theatre (01-405 0727)... ★ Les Liaisons Dangerous: Ambassador Theatre (01-838 6111)... ★ My and My Girl: Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7813)... ★ The Merchant of Venice: Theatre Royal Drury Lane (01-804 0909)... ★ The Mousquettes: St Martin's Theatre (01-836 1443)... ★ The Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-838 2244)... ★ Run for Your Wife: Whitehall Theatre (01-867 1119)... ★ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (01-828 8665).

OUT OF TOWN

BASINGSTOKE: ★ The Importance of Being Earnest: Ian Mullan's production of our timeless comedy, with Josipine Tewson mouthing horror at the handbag.

Haymarket Theatre, Wote St (0265 455566). Thurs-Sat 7.45pm, mat Sat 4pm, 27. (D)

DERBY: ★ Blood Knot: Athol Fugard's celebrated drama of two South African sons of a coloured mother, one white, the other black. Studio Theatre, Playhouse, Eagle Centre (0332 363275), Mon-Sat 7.30pm, 24. (D)

FILMS

■ Also on national release
■ Advance booking possible

CAT CHASER (18): High-octane version of an Elmore Leonard thriller, with Peter Weller as a Florida hothead sucked into a plot by a gangster of hidden motives. With Kelly McGillis; director Abel Ferrara (93 mins). Cannon Panton Street (01-930 0631). Progs 2.15, 4.50, 7.25.

THE COOK, THE THIEF, HIS WIFE AND HER LOVER (18): Peter Greenaway's bold, mordant tale of love, revenge and haute cuisine. With Richard Bohringer (the cook), Michael Gambon (the thief), Helen Mirren (the wife) and

Alan Howard (her lover) (120 mins). Cannon Piccadilly (01-437 3561). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00.

RENOIR (12): Peter O'Toole, Progs 1.10, 3.35, 6.05, 8.45. Screen on Soho Street (01-935 2772). Progs 3.10, 6.00, 8.35.

■ THE DELINQUENTS (12): A routine story of delinquent teenagers in the Fifties with Kyle Minogue (90 mins). Cannon Oxford Street (01-836 0310). Progs 12.45, 3.20, 5.30, 6.30.

■ WARRIOR'S END (13-17): Progs 1.15, 3.40, 6.05, 8.30. Whiteley's 7 (01-792 3303). Progs 1.35, 6.35.

A DRY WHITE SEASON (15): Powerful aparted thriller (from Agatha Christie's novel), with Diana Sutherland as a mild schoolteacher whose conscience is finely stirred. Directed by Euzhan Palcy, with a lucy cameo from Marion Brando (108 mins).

CANNON CHAISES (01-361 1026). Progs 1.35, 4.15, 7.15, 9.40.

CURZON WEST END (01-439 4805). Progs 2.00, 4.10, 6.20, 8.40.

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (01-226 3520). Progs 3.35, 6.20, 8.45.

FELLOW TRAVELLER (15): Michael Eaton's intriguing drama about the bluestocking era, directed by Philip Saville, with Hert Bohmer and Ron Silver as Hollywood radicals variously coping with the McCarthy nightmare (90 mins). Progs 1.00, 4.15, 7.57. Progs 2.45, 4.45, 6.45, 8.30.

■ THE FISH OF DREAMS (PG): Overly sentimental, with Kevin Costner as a farmer encouraged by a celestial voice to use his cornfield for a baseball pitch. Directed by Phil Alden Robinson (108 mins).

CANNON HEYWOOD (01-839 1527). Progs 1.25, 3.30, 6.15, 8.45.

■ HENRY V (PG): Visually drab version of Shakespeare's play from wunderkind Kenneth Branagh, with Judi Dench, with Paul Scofield, Emma Thompson, Judi Dench (137 mins). Progs 2.30, 5.45, 7.30.

JEsus OF MONTREAL (18): An updated version of a Passion Play causes controversy in Montreal. Strained satirical fireworks from Denys Arcand, Canadian director of *The Decline of the American Empire* (120 mins).

LUMBER (01-838 0681). Film at 1.00, 3.30, 6.05, 8.40.

CAMDEN PLAZA (01-485 2445). Progs 1.00, 3.30, 6.05, 8.40.

GATE (01-727 4043). Progs 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45.

■ JESUS ON THE WATERFRONT (15): An updated version of a Passion Play causes controversy in Montreal. Strained satirical fireworks from Denys Arcand, Canadian director of *The Decline of the American Empire* (120 mins).

LUMBER (01-838 0681). Film at 1.00, 3.30, 6.05, 8.40.

POMPEY ROYAL: Plantation Star Tracey unveils a new extended work, inspired by the history of Portsmouth, and commissioned by the city's Jazz Society.

PEARSON'S, The Pyramid Centre, Southeast (01-829 823558), 8pm, 25.

■ TOMMY CHASE: immensely popular with the dance crowd, the drummer puts

his hard-hat quartet through its paces. Manchester (01-832 5625), 8.30pm, 23.50.

■ WILT (15): Wild black force from Tom Sharpe's comic novel, with Griff Rhys-Jones as the eponymous hero set up for a murder, and Mel Smith as the investigating detective; directed by Michael Tuchner (62 mins). Cannon Panton Street (01-930 0631). Progs 1.50, 4.00, 6.05, 8.15, 10.20.

ROCK

■ ICE-T: Although Niggers With Attitude are the most visible exponents of LA's "guitar rap" scene, it is the impossible-to-pronounce "Ice-T" — and, who else, as executive manager of his own Rhyme Syndicate record label, now presides both as artist and auteur over the movement.

Astoria, 339 Roundhay Road, Leeds (0532 490362), 8pm, 25.50.

■ THE ALARM: Wales's biggest rock export continues to celebrate a romantic notion of its Celtic heritage, but the new single "Love Don't Come Easy", released this week, sounds tailor-made for the American market.

St George's Hall, Liverpool, Bradfrod (0274 732000), 7.30pm, 27-28.

■ RED: Nick Hucknall's blue-eyed soul experience. BBC, Birmingham (021 700 4133), 7.30pm, £12-£14.

■ THE HOUSE OF LOVE: Guitarist Terry Bickers returned before Christmas with a new album of his own (the Dave Howard Singer). New single, a revamped version of "Shine On", released this week.

Free Trade Hall, Peter Street, Manchester (01 834 1712), 7.30pm, 24/25. Breezy and Steve Williamson.

Drill Hall, Broadgate, Lincoln (0522 243933), 7.30pm, 25.

CONCERTS

■ MAX MUSIC: Robert Max (cello) and Zos Solomon (piano) play Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto* Op 17, Schumann's *Adagio and Allegro* Op 70 and Dutilleux's *Strophes sur le Beauvais* at St George's Hall, Liverpool, Sat 11.30am, 2.30pm, 25.50.

■ EVIDENCE: Keyboard player Roland Perrin leads the spirited crossover band, mixing jazz, pop and Latin influences.

Bass Clef, 35 Coronet Street, London NW1 (01-229 2476), 8.45pm, 25.50.

■ LOUIS STEWART: A quintet performance by the Irish guitarist whose CV includes stints with Goodman and George Shearing.

Colchester Jazz Club, The Arts Centre, Church Street (0208 577301), 8.30pm, 24.

■ TONY KINSEY: In action with John Dankworth earlier this month, the drummer appears with his own quartet featuring pianist John Horler.

The Studio, Northampton Arts Centre, Southgate Lane (0502 407544), 8pm, 23.

■ STONE CIRCLES: Recent sculptures by Turner Prize-winner Anthony d'Offay, current holder of the Turner Prize, 9 Downing Street, London NW1 (01-499 4100). Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm, free, until Feb 24.

■ ANNETTE SERVADIE: This pianist offers Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, a Suite by Paul Ben-Haim, some Ravel and a large Chopin group.

St John's Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1081), 7.30pm-8.30pm, 23-24.

■ SOUFFLES: Barbara Brown (flute), Jeremy Rose (clarinet) and others play *Ellis' Transcendental*, *Macmillan's Ariadne* and *Wainwright's Chorus No 2*, McGivern's *Prado No 3*, Maxwell Davies's *Hymnos*.

British Music Information Centre, 10 Stratford Place, London W1 (01-499 8567), 7.30pm, free.

■ THOMAS LSO: As part of the Nixon 10th Anniversary Concert Series, Michael Tippett Thomas conducts the LSO in Richard Strauss's symphonic poems *Don Juan* and *Alo sprach Zarathustra*. In between, Barbara Hendricks (soprano) sings Mozart's *Ah, perfido* K272 and some Strauss Lieder.

BBC Proms, Sinfonia Hall, St John's Wood (01-828 8891), 7.45-9.30pm, 24-50.

■ LUCIANO CASTELLO: Paintings and works on paper.

Reed Gallery, 6 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1 (01-828 2589). Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 11am-5pm, free, until Feb 24.

■ STEPHEN BERNIE: Paintings inspired by the Ulster troubles by a Belfast-born artist. Plus: recent paintings by Colin Smith.

Anderson's Old Fine Art, 255 Grosvenor Gardens, London W1 (01-221 7692), Tues-Fri 10am-6.30pm, free, until Feb 24.

■ MICKY DONNELLY: Paintings inspired by the Ulster troubles by a Belfast-born artist. Plus: recent paintings by Colin Smith.

Anderson's Old Fine Art, 255 Grosvenor Gardens, London W1 (01-221 7692), Tues-Fri 10am-6.30pm, free, until Feb 24.

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■ BEST SELLING BOOKS

INFORMATION SERVICE

JOHN O'REILLY

★ MILL MAID MUSIC: Peter Schreier sings Schubert's *Die Schöne Müllerin* cycle. At the piano is Norman Shatto. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-828 8800), 7.45pm, £10-£25. (D)

DANCE

★ LA FILLE MAL GARDEE: Ashton's romantic comedy for the Royal Ballet, with the showpiece *pas de six* from Chabukiani's *Laurance*. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, WC2 (01-240 1088), 7.30pm, £1-£24.

★ LA TRAVIATA: Danced version of Dumas's story by André Prokofiev for London City Ballet. New Theatre, Park Lane, Central (0222-394844), 7.30pm, £25-£110.

★ A GHOST WALK: Meet Tompkins tube, 7.35pm, £23.50 (01-888 4019).

OPERA

★ BEATRICE AND BENEDICT: New production for English National Opera of Berio's great last opera, directed by Tim Albery (whose *Trojans* was so highly acclaimed) and with Ann Murray and Philip Langridge in the title roles. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-828 3151), 7.30pm-10.30pm, £23.00-£23.50.

★ THE CAUCASIAN CHALK Circle: Brecht's play set to a beguiling accompaniment of Chinese-influenced music by Stephen Webber, and presented with fire by the National Youth Music Theatre.

Young Vic, 69 Rosebery Ave, London EC1 (01-278 8916), Thurs-Sat 7.30-10pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, £25-£10. (D)

GALLERIES

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE: The new hanging of the Tate's permanent collection is an untold story.

Tate Britain, Millbank, London SW1 (01-921 7129), Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2.5-5.50pm, free.

KEITH MCINTYRE: Stage designs for Jack Tanqueray's *Boats in the Rain*, the imaginative, figurative style which was typical of young Scottish artists in the 1950s.

Bloomsbury Book Auctions, 33 & 44 Hardwick Street, London EC1 (01-833 8811), 1.15pm, free.

ROBERT MORRIS: Sculptures from 1962-1980 by the American Post-Conceptual artist for whom the idea behind art was more important than the art object.

Whitechapel Gallery, 83 Old Bond Street, London W1 (01-493 7017), Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, free

TELEVISION & RADIO

Play it again, Barry

TELEVISION CHOICE

Peter Waymark

Hardly have the guests checked into the plush Ellington Park Hotel in Warwickshire than the resident pianist, Barrington (call me Barry) Brown, is tinkling out their favourite tunes on the Steinway. And as Joanna Clinton-Davis shows in her *40 Minutes* film *He's Playing Our Song* (BBC2, 9.30pm), behind every number is a story. Roger's favourite is "Confidentially", the signature tune of his comedian uncle, the late Reg Dixon. It is the cue for memories of Reg, whom Roger describes (with pardonable family exaggeration) as England's Bing Crosby. He sounds more like George Formby. But Reg was a big name in the Forces, earning £2,000 a week – and that was in Coventry. Roger



Nostalgic memories: Reg Dixon, a big name in the Forties (BBC2, 9.30pm)

and two of Reg's elderly brothers revisit the cobbled street where Reg composed "Confidentially" one night as he was walking home from the theatre. But enough of nostalgia. Back to the Ellington Park and who is this, scribbling away at his next best-seller, but Jeffrey Archer! He says the hotel is the ideal place for writing, as long as people don't bother him. Ms Clinton-Davis and her camera team take the hint, leaving Archer to his Beatles songs. A no-nonsense Yorkshireman called Tom, earlier heard ordering spotted duck and custard, tells Barrington Brown to play some decent bloody music. By this he means "Autumn Leaves", though Vera Lynn might have been more suitable accompaniment to his memories of the Second World War. The guests come and go but Barry continues, smiling over his keyboard and conjuring up "a little inner warmth".

• This week (ITV, 8.30pm) highlights what many may feel is an unacceptable loophole in the law which allows anyone to foster children without official vetting. Estimates of the extent of private fostering suggest that as many as 30,000 children and babies may be involved. Many have West African parents, who arrive in Britain as students or to work and farm out their offspring to the lowest bidder. Local authorities have neither the resources nor the powers to carry out effective monitoring. The potential for abuse is enormous. Margaret Gilmore's report concentrates on four youngsters, three of whom were forced to leave their foster homes while the programme was being made. One of them disappeared. The fourth child was hidden every time the health visitor called.

BOOKINGS

FM Stereo and Stereo
News on the half-hour from 6.30am until 6.30am then at 7.30, 8.30 and 10.00am.
8.00am Jaki Bramble 6.30
Simon Mayo 6.30 Simon Bates
8.25am Newsbeat 12.45
Gordon Jackson 7.30 8.00
Steve Wright in the Afternoon
8.30 News 9.00 with Sylf Ruscoe
and Alan Robb 6.00 Mark
Gooch 7.30 Philip Schofield
8.30 John Peel 10.00 Nicky
Campbell 12.00-2.00am Richard
Stilman

RADIO 2

FM Stereo and MW
News on the hour
Headlines 8.30am, 8.30,
7.30, 8.30 and 9.30am.
4.00am Alex Lester 6.30
Derek Jameson 6.30 Ken Bruce
11.00 Jimmy Young 1.05pm
David Jacobs 2.00 Gloria
Hurnford 3.30 Adrian Lowe
2.25pm Heather Cooper 7.00 Wally
Weller 8.00 John Peel 8.00 World
News 8.00 Words of Fact 8.15 Viva
Graffiti 8.30 John Peel 8.00 World
News 8.00 Words of Fact 8.15 The
World Today 8.30 Radio 3 8.30
Round 10.00 News 10.00 The
Houghton Weavers (new series)
11.00 Brian Matthew presents
Round Midnight 1.00-4.00am
Patrick Lunt presents Nightdrive

WORLD SERVICE

London Morgenpost 8.35 News in German, 9.30 News in English and 8.45 Sports News 8.00 Weather and Travel News 8.00 News 8.25 London Math 7.00 World News 7.25 8.00 News Summary and Financial News 8.00 8.30 News 8.30 News 8.00 Words of Fact 8.15 Viva Graffiti 8.30 John Peel 8.00 World News 8.00 Words of Fact 8.15 The World Today 8.30 Radio 3 8.30 Roundup 10.00 News 10.00 Assignment 10.30 You Asked For It 11.00 11.00 News 11.00 The World Today 8.30 London Math 7.00 London News 7.25 8.00 News 8.30 8.30 London Math 7.00 World News 7.25 8.00 News 8.30 News 8.30 News 8.00 Words of Fact 8.15 The World Today 8.30 Radio 3 8.30 Roundup 10.00 News 10.00 Assignment 10.30 You Asked For It 11.00 11.00 News 11.00 The World Today 8.30 London Math 7.00 London News 7.25 8.00 News 8.30 8.30 London Math 7.00 World News 7.25 8.00 News 8.30 News 8.30 News 8.00 Words of Fact 8.15 The World Today 8.30 Radio 3 8.30 Roundup 10.00 News 10.00 Assignment 10.30 You Asked For It 11.00 11.00 News 11.00 The World Today 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8.15 The World Today 8.30 Radio 3 8.3

Heavy snowfalls cause traffic chaos

Continued from page 1
went right into the building. It sounded like a gas explosion at first, and when we heard it we dashed outside.

"I didn't realize it was a helicopter at first. It hit the flats, went down to the ground and hit a big brick box where they have the power for the buildings."

The building it hit, known locally as "The Thumb", is occupied mainly by wealthy elderly people and earned its nickname because locals believe it sticks out like a sore thumb.

Assistant Chief Constable Dickson said: "There was a violent storm, snowy and very windy. At the moment information is very sketchy but we think the helicopter was flying below the weather — investigations are obviously being carried out along that line."

"The helicopter then struck the building and fell to the ground at McLaren Court."

The marked helicopter normally used by the police for traffic surveillance in the city was having its carburettor repaired at the time.

Mr Edward McHugh, aged 23, who lives nearby, said: "The helicopter was swaying about 200ft in the air ... it had lost power and the rotor blades were barely moving. It was coming down head-first in a slow glide. It clipped the building and then there was a huge bang as it smashed into the ground. Smoke was pouring from the front end of the helicopter, but there was no fire."

The crash comes as the Home Office investigates the costs and benefits of setting up a national police air force.

The heaviest snowfall of the winter caused traffic chaos in many parts of the country but put the smile back on the face of the hard-pressed skiing industry yesterday.

At the main Aviemore re-



Cars stranded in Glasgow yesterday in the heaviest snowfall this winter. The city was one of the worst-hit areas of Scotland with snow causing rail delays. sort in Scotland overnight falls of six inches brought skiers out in droves for the first real session of the season and came just in time for the start of the annual husky dog racing championships at the Highland centre today.

As wintry weather took a grip, the worst-hit areas in-

Tough challenge for post-revolutionary Romania

Mass protest in Bucharest over poll decision

From Christopher Walker
Bucharest

Political turmoil in post-revolutionary Romania deepened yesterday when crowds again took to the streets to protest against the decision of the ruling National Salvation Front to stand in the May general election and Mrs Dumitru Cornea, the country's best-known dissident, resigned in protest.

Mrs Cornea, aged 60, from the town of Cluj, announced that she was standing down immediately from the national council of the 145-member Front and from her position as its honorary president in her home region.

Mrs Cornea declared that she was making her protest against the "inequality" that would result from the Front's decision to contest the poll. She also stated she did not want any part in "the fight for power".

Hours after her resignation was

made public, thousands of angry demonstrators once again took to the freezing streets of Bucharest by overnight train from outlying areas. A leading official of the party, which has already attracted more than 180,000 members, announced that it would boycott the Round Table planned by the Front for next Saturday to discuss Romania's path to democracy. He also said the

EC food convoy 7

Leading article 13

parties would organize a mass anti-Front rally in the capital on Sunday.

As party members shouted

"Down with the mafia" and "Down with the Communist Front", Mr Cornelius Coposu, the leader of the Peasants' Party, aged 74, read a communiqué calling on the Front to resign and hand power over to a neutral body which would not seek election. He accused the interim

Front's decision to overthrow. Many had travelled to Bucharest by overnight train from outlying areas.

A leading official of the party, which has already attracted more than 180,000 members, announced that it would boycott the Round Table planned by the Front for next Saturday to discuss Romania's path to democracy. He also said the

government of "stealing the victory of the Romanian youth" and urged its leadership to admit they could not both act as the interim administration and stand for power.

Across Romania's newly formed and fragile political spectrum, members of the 15 registered parties alleged the Front's decision was a ploy to perpetuate the power of the communist party. Many claimed to see the hand of the Kremlin in the decision to put forward candidates.

Anger at the Front's decision, announced without prior consultation, was also expressed by the National Liberal Party, another of Romania's historic groupings, resolved to fight the election.

After an emergency meeting, Mr Bernard Popescu, aged 53, a senior organizer, accused the Front of using Mrs Cornea's reputation in its early days to secure credibility.

It was unclear last night whether

the provisional government would give permission for Sunday's planned anti-Front demonstration. Under new decrees, all marches have to be approved 48 hours in advance if they are to be legal.

Attacks on the Front were not restricted to the fledgeling parties. Yesterday's *Romania Libera*, one of the main Bucharest papers, reinforced its bitter campaign to force the exit of Mr Dumitru Mazilu, the Front's vice-president, whom it claimed covered up a senior rank in the Securitate.

Mr Mazilu has now threatened to sue the paper for libel and has accused it of being manipulated by ex-Securitate officials, who he claimed had infiltrated the Foreign Ministry and were now attempting to smear his character because of his record as an outspoken critic of Nicolae Ceausescu's appalling human rights record.

Welcome again to Family Favourites

Just as a drowning man is supposed to see, at one instant, his whole life race before him, so yesterday in the Commons we were offered a pot-pourri of all the old familiar tunes performed by all the old familiar crooners. It was a sort of parliamentary *These You Have Loved*.

There was Dave Nellist (Lab, Coventry SE) shouting for non-payment of poll-tax, to Tory cries of "shame". There was the magnificently blood-curdling David Evans (C, Welwyn & Hatfield) and Anthony Beaumont-Dark (C, Selly Oak) offering identical views about the homelessness in the accents of an ironmonger who has not made it into the local golf-guru, the latter in the accents of an ironmonger who has.

And your sketchwriter has a new and better name for what followed. It was — and is laughingly known as "Points of Order", but in your sketchwriter's view it ought to be called what it increasingly is, these days: *Playtime*.

Let me briefly explain. After Questions, any MP who has a matter to pursue which is not so much a question (or opinion) about the subjects of debate themselves, as a gripe about the way Parliament organizes itself to debate them, can put his question to Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker more or less has to take the intervention, as (though he may guess) he cannot know whether it is a bogie "point of order" — a political speechette masquerading as a procedural point — until he has heard it. But, usually, that is just what it turns out to be...

"Mr Speaker, was it in order for the Employment Secretary to spout the usual load of rubbish about his fake 'employment statistics' ...?" There was the great Nicholas Soames (C, Crawley) being sensible about a scheme for community projects in new towns, and Joe Ashton (Lab, Basildon) being plumb crazy about a scheme to make shopkeepers take the names and addresses of people who bought aerosol spray-paint so that graffiti-artists could be tracked down.

"What trail of evidence, Holmes, led you from that corner-shop in Clacton to the brilliant deduction that this railway carriage was disguised by Wayne Spilog of Railway Cuttings, Crewe?" "Elementary, my dear Watson. Who else would use that shade of Aubergine Provencal?"

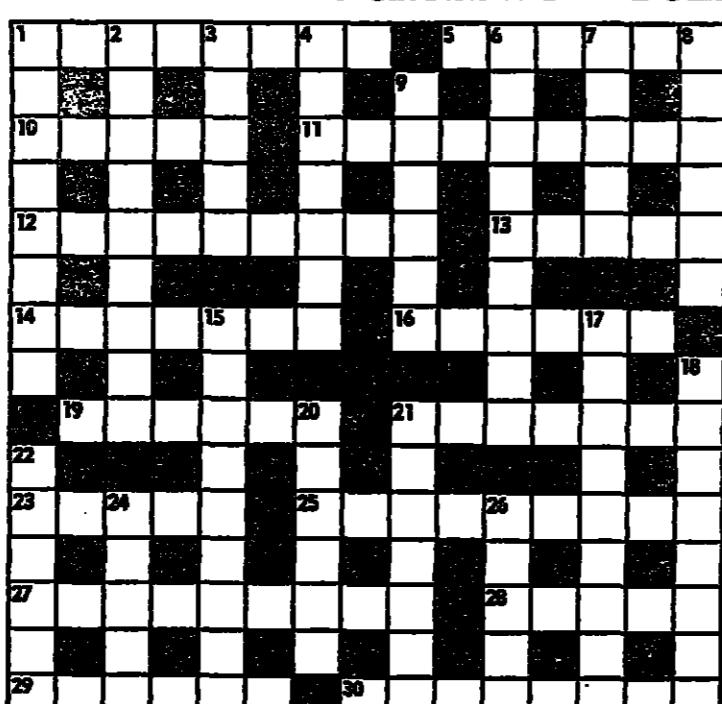
And there was junior Environment Minister, David Trippier, peering sternly over his spectacles. Matthew Parris

Airline charges up 40%

Continued from page 1
the Boeing 747, for example, the increase is very small and can be shared among all its passengers. But a small 49-seat De Havilland Dash 7 of Brymon Airways, for example, will have to pay 45 per cent more.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission is investigating navigation charges.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,200



WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

SWITCH-HITTER

a. A theatrical electrician
b. A southpaw
c. Ambidextrous at baseball

FIGHTER

a. A small enclosure
b. The male organ
c. To decapitate

VENTER

a. The womb
b. To sell
c. A Baltic sailing ship

ATABEG

a. A ruler
b. A stilt house
c. An Eskimo sledge

Answers on page 20

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National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 737

West Country 738

Wales 739

Midlands 740

North Anglia 741

North-East England 742

North-east England 743

Scotland 744

Northern Ireland 745

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Concise Crossword, page 20

WEATHER

England and Wales will start wet with sleet or snow in northern counties before it turns brighter. This brighter weather will move southwards during the day but before the rain dies out it may turn to sleet or snow in the Midlands and Wales. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a mixture of sunny intervals and wintry showers with thunder possible. Outlook: Sunshine and showers, Windy.

ABROAD

AROUND BRITAIN

Midday: t=thunder; d=drizzle; lg=long; s=sun; s=short; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain.

Sun rate: Int C Max F

Scarborough 3.6 .11 48 bright rain

Hannington 1.1 .13 50 rain

Cardiff 0.8 .14 50 rain

Llanelli 2.2 .10 50 rain

Folkestone 1.8 .11 52 rain

Exmouth 1.8 .11 52 rain

Brighton 1.8 .11 52 rain

Worthing 2.2 .11 52 rain

St Leonards 2.2 .11 52 rain

St Ives 2.2 .11 52 rain

Swansea 2.4 .12 52 rain

Weymouth 2.0 .11 52 rain

Exmouth 2.9 .12 52 rain

Torquay 2.4 .12 52 rain

Falmouth 2.5 .12 52 rain

Penzance 4.8 .11 52 rain

Silby Inlet 4.4 .11 52 rain

St Ives 2.1 .11 52 rain

Morecambe 1.9 .12 52 rain

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Leeds 5.1 .24 52 rain

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TEMPUS

Chrysalis strikes the wrong chord

It requires a certain *chutzpah*, which Mr Chris Wright of Chrysalis Group has admittedly never been short, to accompany a set of results as comprehensively dire as yesterday's with such an upbeat statement.

It requires quite another quality — folly, perhaps — to announce that on the back of an £11.5 million pre-tax loss in the latest financial year, you plan to enter the riskier arena of commercial television.

The results compare with a pre-tax profit of £1.8 million in the previous 14 months, although the start of the decline came before that.

Mr Wright has need to appear upbeat. Tales of Chrysalis' woes have reached the ears of some of his biggest stars. Some have decided to delay record releases until the position is clearer, and at least one, Huey Lewis, is expected to quit the label soon.

The sale of half of Chrysalis Record Companies, the core business, to Thorn EMI last summer only exacerbated the uncertainty by prompting a switch from the CBS distributor network to Capitol EMI, again delaying much-needed releases. Meanwhile, the American company was hit by the move to compact discs which save huge returns from retailers of old vinyl albums.

While he builds up his artists' roster and looks for prospective superstars, Mr

Wright must do his best to discourage any costly defections. The whole Chrysalis saga, by highlighting how dependent record companies are on the unreliable success of artists, underlines their unsuitability as quoted investments — as former investors in Virgin will testify.

Normal investment criteria hardly apply to Chrysalis. A pre-tax profit figure of £3.5 million this year, the top of the range, puts the shares on a p/e multiple of more than 15. Net assets per share of 185p and £12 million in the bank sent the shares up 1p to 146p yesterday. Mr David Geffen, the producer, has 10 per cent, but Mr Wright and his colleagues have control. Still highly speculative.

Newman

Tonks

Newman Tonks spent more than £50 million on acquisitions last year — a lot for a company capitalized at only £150 million. Mr Doug Rogers, Newman's chief executive, does not see the burden of paying for these key strategic moves in quite that way, however. He believes the company was let off lightly given that group sales will double following the purchases.

The acquisitions accounted for slightly more than half the



Risk-taker: Chris Wright, who plans to enter television

growth in profits, which rose by 26 per cent to £21.2 million, in the year to October. Indeed, internally generated growth was roughly the same as the increase in earnings per share, which were 13 per cent ahead at 17.9p.

After adding Falcon Lock to its US operations and buying Normbau in Germany, about half the expected £250 million sales in the current year will arise overseas. In Britain,

Newman believes it has broken the mould of the hardware industry by picking up five architectural ironmongers, including the quoted Laidlaw Thomson, giving the company a better command of architectural sales for projects like major office developments, airports and hospitals.

Admittedly, gearing has risen from negligible levels to 45 per cent as a result. However, half the borrowings

have been raised in Germany and the US at low interest rates and the entire £26 million debt could probably be removed by the disposal of peripheral businesses.

There is also the question why the vendors of the companies Newman acquired were so keen to sell — Mr Rogers admits that 1990 will be a tough year. Analysts think profits are still likely to reach £26.4 million this time, for earnings of 19p. That means a prospective p/e ratio of less than 10 with the shares at 185p, which is not high, given the bargain-hunting predators roaming the building materials sector.

Rustenburg

Platinum as a metal has long been more expensive than gold. By contrast, platinum shares have long been cheaper than their golden rivals.

So, if investors feel they missed the South African gold boat, which was pushed out yesterday on the back of the "Mandela" factor and which was further aided by Wall Street and dollar wobbles, it is not too late to catch the SA platinum boat.

Rustenburg Platinum Holdings, South Africa's largest platinum group metals (pgm) producer, reported interim pre-tax profits of R643.5 million (£153.2 million) for the six months ended December,

compared with R633 million, and raised its interim dividend from 115 to 125 cents a share.

Rustenburg's immediate earnings outlook is clouded by rand/dollar exchange rate movements — which will be governed by international political factors — and, in turn, by platinum and nickel prices.

The upshot, as Rustenburg itself implies, is that by the year-end the group may be lucky just to report fairly flat distributable earnings — so not much change on last year's 475 cents a share can be expected. However, Rustenburg has substantial cash reserves, the medium-term outlook for supply/demand in the pgm market is still running in its favour and there is no reason why the final dividend should not go up.

At a London price of £15, Rustenburg offers a prospective price/earnings ratio of 12.1, backed by a gross yield of 5.4 per cent. The average yield on established and big SA gold shares — whose dividend growth prospects are far from certain — is about 5 per cent.

As the recent Lonrho/Impala development demonstrates, SA platinum fields are where overseas investors want to be. And, if the investment climate towards SA continues to improve, the good and the great in the SA market will be in demand. Rustenburg will be among them. Buy.

Business Roundup

Interim losses at BBA double to £82,000

The vagaries of the bloodstock sales season has hit the USM-quoted British Bloodstock Agency. With the Newmarket Highflyer yearling sale moved from September to October, the company's commission on £2.2 million of sales slumped to the second half.

That, however, did nothing to help figures for the first half. In the six months to September the pre-tax loss was £82,000, double the year before. With the exception of 1985, when profits hit a peak of £1.6 million, BBA has been sliding since it came to the USM in 1984. The interim dividend is held at 2.5p.

Bond acts to reinforce ban

Bond Brewing Holdings yesterday filed a new action in the Supreme Court of Western Australia seeking a permanent injunction prohibiting banks led by the National Australia Bank and a group of Bond creditors based in the United States from winding up the company. The court has already granted a restraining injunction against the creditors.

Crystallate in £6m sale

Crystallate Holdings, the electronics manufacturer, is selling its telecommunications division, principally comprising A P Besson, a Hosiden Electronics, a Japanese electronics company, up to £6 million.

An initial payment of £5 million will be made at completion, with a further £600,000 expected in May, on the basis of projected net assets at completion. Under a separate agreement, relating to consignment stock in the telecommunications division, Crystallate may receive up to a further £400,000 from Hosiden. The telecommunications division, which makes telephone capsules and related products, made pre-tax losses of £973,000 in the year to end-September 1988, and £255,000 in the seven months to end-April 1989.

Beales marks time at £1m

Difficult trading in textiles held pre-tax profits growth at J Beales to £18,000, up to £1.03 million, in the six months to November, on 13.5 per cent higher turnover of £17.4 million. The textiles outlook is unhelpful; Beales is more optimistic about refrigeration. The interim rises to 2.05p (1.85p) on 12.9p earnings per share (13.7p).

Wentworth doubles

Despite a quadrupled interest charge the USM-quoted packaging company Wentworth International, in the six months to last September, made pre-tax profits of £285,000, a 104 per cent increase on the equivalent period the year before. The interim dividend goes up by just 7 per cent to 1.92p.

Mr Haque Khan, chairman, said the 138 per cent jump in operating profits was only achieved through the use of additional working capital — hence the higher interest charge. Next month, the group — which Mr Khan says remains acquisitive — expects to complete its £2 million purchase of Dowland Press, its first move into specialist printing. The interim includes a first-time full contribution from Edwards bought for £1.6 million in December 1988.

Camford profit up 36% to £5.83m

By Jeremy Andrews

A 45 per cent growth in sales to £125 million at Camford Engineering in the year to October was due to the company's success in picking up new business as well as the rise in car output, according to Mr John Gutteridge, the finance director.

Camford's purchase of a former Austin Rover factory in Llanelli, which enlarged its workforce by a third, also helped. Camford presses and machines metal components for the car industry.

Pre-tax profits increased by 36 per cent to £5.83 million, leaving earnings per share 31 per cent ahead at 18.8p. The final dividend rises by a

Shipyard plan spurs jobs hope

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

British Shipbuilders is near to a deal with MM Oil, based in Co. Durham, which would revive Sunderland's Pallion shipyard, one of those shut in

the closure of North East Shipbuilders (NESL). The plan is to use it for building rigs and pontoons for oil-related facilities. It is raising hopes that job losses from the NESL closure will be wiped out, because there are also talks for an Anglo-Greek consortium of Transman Shipping and Charterwell Maritime to re-start ship repair work at North Sands, another British Shipbuilders yard on the Wear.

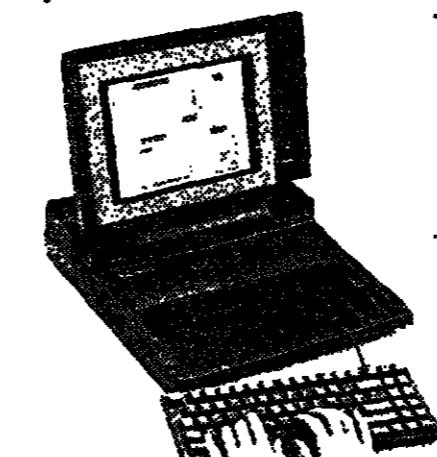
Another former NESL yard, at Southwick, is to become an enterprise zone. Mr Christopher Campbell, chairman of British Shipbuilders, said: "Of the 2,100 jobs that went at three yards, 1,200 have already been replaced. I hope now we shall be able to wipe out the backlog."

Making a will

Up to two-thirds of British people die without making a will, which can be costly for relatives they leave behind. Details of one family who lost an £80,000 house are included in seven pages of Family Money on Saturday.

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losses at BBA to £82,000

Construction outlets dip

in £6m sale

Receives marks time at film

orth doubles

ord profit up to £5.83m

SRO fees reduced after overpayment

Brussels seeks air route control

Specialeyes £689,000 in the red

SE splash for Lake

Shell Oil advances to £843m earnings

Barriers to Takeovers in the European Community

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Gestetner sets its sights on growth as profits top £36m

By Melinda Wittstock

Gestetner, the photocopier and fax supplier which last summer moved into the photographic business with a £71 million acquisition of the Australian Hanimex Corporation, is planning two more major acquisitions in the office supplies distribution area.

The old family business, which was put firmly on the road to recovery three years ago when Mr Basil Sellers, the Australian textiles chief, took over as chairman and chief executive, also said it plans an invasion of Eastern Europe through joint ventures and distribution deals.

Pre-tax profits have risen by 26 percent to £36.2 million for the year to end-October.

Mr Sellers said it was the first time since AFP, his Australian investment vehicle, bought a controlling interest in late 1986 that Gestetner's profit growth has been based on growing sales, up 36 per cent this past financial year.

Profit growth following the AFP takeover had been based on cost-cutting.

Profits have grown from 2 per cent to about 8 per cent during the past three years, and earnings per share have grown by a compound 66 per cent.

Gestetner's earnings per share in the year to end-October climbed by 14 per cent to 31p. The total dividend is increased by 36 per cent from 5.5p to 7.5p.

Mr Sellers said a three-month contribution from Hanimex, the photographic and imaging equipment sup-

plier, best known for its Vivitar and Hanimex cameras, contributed £7 million in profits and 14 per cent of the growth in turnover.

Another 14 per cent sales growth came from increased productivity from the group's sales force.

He said Gestetner's new Copy Printer, a normal photocopier which uses the less expensive stencil process, now accounts for 10 per cent of sales.

But Gestetner ran into problems in America, where stiff competition in the supply of fax machines in the second half has forced it to consider whether to withdraw completely from the fax market in America.

When considering acquisitions, Gestetner is placing a high priority on continental Europe, which now accounts for two-thirds of its office equipment revenue.

Although its source is primarily Japan, it will now look to Eastern Europe for lower-tech labour work.

Gestetner, whose own office equipment products now account for less than 12 per cent of its distribution business, says it is looking at several possible acquisitions to build up its distribution network.

This is in order to give it a pole position to handle a growing array of products coming on the market.

As well as optical filing systems, colour copiers and laser printers, there are integrated fax, laser printer and digital copier machines which are new to the scene.



Growth by sales for first time: Basil Sellers, chairman and chief executive of Gestetner

COMMENT David Brewerton

Topsy-turvy world of the global stock market

The global stock market may be here to stay but it increasingly appears to be a wonky coil rather than a smooth circle. It makes no sense in terms of the time clock for London to follow Wall Street rather than Tokyo, since this often leads to a reversal of direction in mid-afternoon. The relation between the American and Japanese markets has become equally confusing as more weight has been placed on it by dealers. Yesterday was the third session in a row when early predictions were defied and it was hard to say who was following who or what.

Tokyo started what promised to be a rocky day by falling almost 600 points on the Nikkei index. This was in response to an auction in the United States of \$5 billion 40 year bonds in Recorp — the agency set up to rescue savings and loan institutions — which dragged the yield up another notch to 8.6 per cent. Details came too late to affect Wall Street on Tuesday, but thrust Japanese dealers into the camp that expects the Federal Reserve to halt or reverse the decline in US short-term rates, with consequences for the yen, Japanese bond yields and share prices.

British investors had other ideas, however, converting a 40 point drop in the FT-SE index to less than 13 points by the close, despite a moderate initial drop.

Time to treat insiders civilly

Procedures for bringing insiders to book are hopelessly inadequate. Evidence is collected by one body, normally the Stock Exchange, and handed on to the Department of Trade and Industry for prosecution. It does not result in successful prosecutions, and every time a case collapses the fear of being convicted recedes from the front of each insider dealer's mind.

We have to decide, as a society, whether insider dealing is a crime where its perpetrators are to be treated as the criminals they are, or a slight deviation from the rules of the club. There is a great sense of frustration at the Stock Exchange that some really quite sophisticated detective work amongst the tapes and electronic records does not produce convincing prosecutions, let alone convictions.

The contribution to the debate by Michael Feltham, head of the Stock Exchange insider dealing group, probably points the best way forward. Feltham does not belong to that dwindling part of the City establishment which regards insider trading as a victimless crime. He wants to see the crooks caught, and believes the best way would be to concentrate the authority and the resources into one body.

It is hard to disagree and unless something is done, we will continue to see shares rising ahead of takeover bids and falling in front of bad news, and little London will lose the reputation which gives it a leading place in the financial world.

If successful criminal prosecutions are so fraught with uncertainty, then there must be a case for following the United States line and allowing insider dealing to be treated through the civil procedures, with a body such as the Securities and

Investment Board bringing the actions. It works there, as Ivan Boesky would unhappily testify. But our criminal law is not working here.

Tyrie's £1m try-on

For well over a month, shareholders in Norfolk Capital Group, a company owning and operating a series of hotels and clubs, have been bombarded with conflicting advice. A hotelier of some repute, Peter Tyrie, is attempting to remove the existing chief executive, Peter Eyles, and has himself installed in his place. Tyrie's claim to the seat is that he and some associates have picked up a 13 per cent stake and they would run Norfolk better, through their management company, Balmoral, than the existing management.

The waters of the dispute are muddied by family ties and it is entirely possible that Tyrie might do better than Eyles. That, however, is not the only point at issue. Shareholders should consider whether it is right that those who wish to wrest control for themselves should be allowed to do so without the formality of making an offer for the company.

Overall, there is nowhere near enough reason for shareholders to desert their board in favour of the Balmoral proposals. Tyrie's try-on has cost shareholders the best part of £1 million already. He should be thanked for his interest at Monday's meeting but shown the door.

BARRIERS

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— John Redwood, Corporate Affairs Minister

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Fight for Farmers brought forward

From Philip Robinson
Los Angeles

The battle to control Farmers, BAT Industries' American insurance group, will be fought out before the California insurance regulators on February 13 — more than a month earlier than planned.

The decision by California's insurance officials was claimed as a victory by Axa Midi Assurances, the French financial services group, which has agreed to buy Farmers if Sir James Goldsmith's Hoylake Investments takes BAT over.

BAT had opposed advancing the date from March 19.

M Claude Bebear, Axa's chairman and chief executive, said: "We are extremely pleased that the date has been moved forward and that the California Department of Insurance has decided to ignore the persistent stalling tactics of the entrenched BAT management."

Mr Jeffrey Beyer, a spokesman for Farmers, said: "Our initial reluctance to accelerate the date was to avoid the logistical difficulty of concurrent hearings."

If Sir James' BAT bid is to succeed, Axa and Hoylake must convince insurance regulators in the nine states in which Farmers is registered that their ownership of Farmers will not be against policyholders' interests.

An early decision from California is seen as crucial to setting the tone for other hearings, due to run until April. The first, in Illinois, enters its 16th day today.

M Bebear has told the state's insurance commissioner that he has given the acquisition of Farmers priority and will demonstrate over coming months the experience of Axa in insurance.

He said marriage was important for Farmers, given turmoil in the US property and casualty business and a lack of financial commitment by BAT to Farmers.

"We will... bring substantially greater expertise, resources and experience in the insurance business to Farmers than its present parents — department stores and a paper company owned in turn by a tobacco conglomerate," he said.

Designers plummets to £1.05m

By Philip Pangalos

Pre-tax profits of Company of Designers, the Unlisted Securities Market architectural and design group, more than halved to £1.05 million in the year to end-September, from £2.47 million. This comes after losses at Light Box and setting-up costs which led to

reduced margins following considerable investment in Britain and France.

The Light Box, closed on December 22, lost £38,000, with a further £50,000 posture costs, mainly due to lack of management and computer and accounting difficulties. Earnings per share slumped from 10.2p to 3.8p. A

final of 2.25p, against 2.4p, makes 3.5p again.

Turnover rose by 54.7 per cent to £16.4 million. Fees issued by 34 per cent to £16.2 million and work done by 35 per cent to £16.1 million. However, interest charges leaped from £63,000 to £454,000. Mr Norman Lockhart is to financial director.

Another notable defence acquisition was that of Messerschmitt-Bölkow Blohm by West Germany's Daimler-Benz. However, although that has given Daimler probably £2.8 billion in defence sales, much of it is in the airframe sector, as with British Aerospace (BAe), which is Britain's biggest defence contractor.

In defence electronics, in which many expect further

changes, the line-up still includes two British companies —

Thorn EMI and Racal —

anxious to sell their defence interests. Thorn defence interests, including radar and electro-optics, have had a £250 million price tag on them. Racal, strong on electronic warfare, with communication systems and tactical radio, has reportedly been

looking for £300 million for its businesses.

Racal has reportedly spoken to every key defence grouping in Europe without success.

Thorn EMI has apparently been one to have looked over

Thorn EMI's defence business, but there has been no sale there so far.

Joint ventures and co-operation deals are likely to

Advantage for Bank of Ireland

By Robert Rodwell

The first interest-bearing current account to be offered by a clearing bank in Northern Ireland has become available to personal depositors, about a year after such accounts became available in mainland Britain.

The Southern-owned Bank

of Ireland group, smallest of the five clearing banks in the province, surprised competitors by announcing the AdVantage personal account, available immediately after the announcement.

Interest will be paid quarterly on any balance above a £1 minimum and the account carries all the facilities of an

ordinary current account. Fees and debit charges will, however, be "marginally higher" than with non-interest bearing current accounts.

The bank, with more than 50,000 personal account holders in the North, has only about 10 per cent of the market and its move is an attempt to increase its share.

Aberdeen slips

Profits at Aberdeen Steak Houses fell to £280,000 (£402,000) in the half-year to end-June. Turnover edged up 7.7 per cent to £6.2 million. The interim dividend is kept at 7.5p on eps of 1.1p (1.8p).

Jury's buy

The Jury's Hotel Group, based in Dublin, has bought the Ardree Hotel in Waterford City from Breen Hotels Waterford, for £2 million (£1.92 million) cash. Its shares were unchanged at 190p.

Lasmo find

Lasmo, the British independent oil company, has made an oil find on its Al Bishri permit in Syria. A cumulated flow of 6,800 barrels per day was recorded tests.

BMW sales

BMW, the car maker, lifted 1989 group turnover to more than DM26 billion (£9.3 billion), up from DM24.5 billion. Production exceeded 500,000 vehicles (484,000).

ANS advances

Associated Nursing Services lifted pre-tax profits to £1.8 million (£273,000). Turnover rose 71 per cent to £4.2 million and the interim dividend is 1p. on eps of 32.1p (4.2p).

Coastal invests

Coastal Corporation is investing \$38 million (£16.9 million) in the construction of an ammonium nitrate plant at Elko, Nevada.

Derek Harris views the Ferranti deal and a changing defence scene

GEC ready for battle ahead

Lord Weinstock's General Electric Company (GEC) was fourth in the world league of defence electronics companies even before its adept £310 million acquisition of the defence systems business of beleaguered Ferranti.

Now, only General Motors, with its Hughes interests and annual turnover of about £3.8 billion, is ahead of GEC and France's Thomson-CSF, headed by M Alain Gomez.

Ferranti's business is estimated in the City at rather more than £200 million in sales purely of defence electronics, which would lift GEC to £2.7 billion turnover in this sector — the estimated level of Thomson-CSF in that field.

The estimated come from UBS Phillips & Drew, which puts Ferranti sales at about £25 million in radar, £70 million in navigation systems, £20 million in electro-optics and £30 million in avionics, with other sales coming from product support work.

Products range from inertial navigation systems to aircraft cockpit displays. The radar is the high-performance type suitable for use in aircraft.

It is because Ferranti has developed a more advanced radar system that it has been front-runner to secure the radar contract for the £2.2 billion European Fighter Aircraft (EFA) project. That technology, backed by GEC's financial muscle, should see GEC land the contract safely.

In electro-optics, Ferranti has developments employing lasers for thermal imaging.

GEC, which also has substantial Plessey electronics interests under its belt, although ground radar and some other defence systems are going to Siemens, might even be ahead by a nose, although Thomson-CSF grew its defence electronics in



Lord Weinstock: making GEC bigger in defence electronics



Alain Gomez: heading Thomson-CSF's growth in defence

proliferate as the defence game gets tougher with the possible slimming of defence programmes by European governments and the United States. The ban on defence sales to China since its clampdown on critics last year has also hit suppliers.

Two other key British suppliers in defence electronics are Dowty and Smiths Industries. Dowty has been a strong rival to Ferranti in command and control systems, although its defence sales are relatively modest at about £200 million. Defence sales of Smiths Industries are at least double that, and represent about half its sales.

Restructuring in defence electronics is set to continue, according to Mr Stephen Parker, leading electronics analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew.

He said: "In defence, there is generally not going to be any growth."

"The biggest companies, if their management stays on the ball, will have a competitive edge. So the pressures will be greater on the smaller companies where they are trying to emphasize technology. Clearly some will survive, but it will become increasingly difficult."

It is now clearly crucial for defence electronic companies to sell more into markets other than the traditionally big ones. GEC has been increasing its overseas exposure (up from 40 per cent to 50 per cent over five years) and the Ferranti interests will enhance this.

GEC is also good at improving operating efficiency. That will be needed in any company competing in defence. But it is yet to emerge what rationalization will mean to the merged Ferranti and Marconi defence systems interests in terms of manufacturing facilities and jobs.

Economy slows sharply

The sharp slowdown in the economy is continuing, according to cyclical indicators produced by the Central Statistical Office.

The longer leading index, which has been falling since May 1988, suffered a sharper fall than previously, down from 95.1 to 94.9.

The shorter leading and coincident indexes are also declining fast, but the lagging index has been little changed in recent months.

Hilclare rises

Hilclare, on the Third Market, lifted pre-tax profits 27.7 per cent to £92,000 in the six months to end-September, on turnover up 87 per cent at £1.22 million. Eps rise to 2.3p (1.8p). There is no dividend, but a final of 1p is expected.

Globe ahead

Globe Investment Trust increased net assets 10.6 per cent to £1.22 billion in the nine months to end-December. Profits climbed from £26.4 million to £34.4 million, while fully diluted eps rose 24.0 per cent to 4.49p.

Highland falls

Profits at Highland Electronics slipped to £393,000 in the six months to end-October, on turnover up 19.8 per cent at £7.59 million. Eps fall to 3.01p (1.7p), but the interim dividend is held at 1p.

Flogas down

Flogas saw pre-tax profits clipped from £1.32 million to £1.02 million (£979,000) in the six months to end-November. Eps fall to 14.5p (1.7p), but the interim dividend rises to 1.54p (1.31p).

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LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Series Jan Apr Jul Oct Feb May Aug Oct Feb May Aug

Calls Put Calls Put Calls Put Calls Put

Series Feb May Aug Feb May Aug

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000 Vol '000 Vol '000 Vol '000

ADT 1,102 1,024 765 1,480

CU 1,054 2,557 1,249 2,231

Loyd's 636 505 2,674 4,378

McDonald's 515 505 807 776

Lucas 807 776

MB Group 2,988 2,211

MEPC 949 2,020

Smiths 234 224

Smiths Int 1,246 1,246

Smiths Ind 3,614 3,630

Stobart 1,421 1,421

Stobart Ch 1,734 1,734

Stobart Food 2,029 2,029

Stobart P 1,167 1,167

Stobart Sun 793 793

Stobart T 103 103

Stobart T & N 798 798

Stobart THF 1,443 1,443

Stobart TMC 2,237 2,237

Stobart Gmc 2,202 2,202

Stobart M 1,282 1,282

Stobart P 2,423 2,423

Stobart Tyle 4,114 4,114

Stobart V 3,456 3,456

Stobart W 472 472

Stobart T 472 472

Stobart T 572 572

Stobart T 572 572

Stobart

South African gold shares spark

South African gold shares enjoyed some of their biggest one-day gains in a long time with rises of between 10 and 20 per cent among many of the big producers.

Dealers said that the wave of buying orders was triggered by the nervous conditions in Tokyo and on Wall Street as well as the weaker dollar. Talk that Mr Nelson Mandela, the jailed South African political activist, was about to be released also boosted sentiment. Gold is a traditional hedge among investors in days of uncertainty but this time they seem content to invest in the gold producers. Some take the view that the release of Mr Mandela would improve South Africa's standing with the rest of the world and help its sagging economy.

Dealers reported buying orders from institutions in London but said that some also came from as far as the Continent and the Cape.

One dealer said: "It is terribly difficult to make a market. The spreads are often high, wide and handsome. One buyer can move a price disproportionately to the market."

Among the heavyweights, Anglo American Gold jumped 24 to 267.4, Vaal Reefs 26 to 179.4, Harmony 146p to 800p and St Helena 76p to 826p. Gains were also seen among the lower-priced with Blyvoors up 5p to 258p.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily change (\$)	Yearly change (%)	Daily chg. (\$US)	Yearly chg. (\$US)
The World (free)	768.4	-1.9	17.2	-1.2	14.7
EAFE	148.8	-1.9	17.1	-1.3	14.8
Europe (free)	1427.2	-1.5	12.2	-1.5	13.0
Nth America (free)	148.6	-1.6	11.9	-1.6	12.9
Nordic (free)	718.6	-1.2	32.8	-1.7	22.3
Pacific (free)	154.3	-1.2	33.3	-1.9	22.5
Far East (free)	483.9	-2.5	27.5	-1.6	16.9
Australia	1503.2	-1.3	38.0	-1.6	25.5
Denmark	230.7	-1.1	53.0	-1.5	37.2
Finland	357.0	-1.7	2.9	-1.4	0.7
Norway	519.5	-1.7	2.4	-1.4	0.5
UK	328.1	-3.7	11.8	-0.3	15.2
USA	1614.9	-1.2	145.0	-2.0	112.6
Belgium	929.0	-1.7	20.3	-2.3	3.8
Canada	542.1	-1.9	22.3	-0.3	12.0
Spain	1309.5	0.5	56.6	-0.3	38.2
Sweden	118.0	0.3	1.8	-0.0	-10.9
Switzerland	153.0	0.2	27.9	-0.1	11.9
France	738.3	-2.1	37.4	-2.3	18.7
Germany	889.8	-0.8	56.4	-1.5	35.8
Italy	2068.2	-1.2	9.0	-0.2	0.1
Japan	373.2	-1.9	27.3	-2.4	11.9
Netherlands	553.0	-1.7	1.8	-1.4	8.4
New Zealand	856.8	-1.6	33.4	-2.3	15.8
Norway	96.7	-3.4	13.0	-0.2	9.8
UK (free)	233.5	-4.0	61.3	-4.2	46.7
USA (free)	1953.7	-1.8	54.0	-1.1	36.3
Spain (free)	216.2	0.8	10.0	-0.2	-2.9
Sweden (free)	1650.1	-1.6	37.7	-1.8	26.3
Switzerland (free)	231.6	-1.4	47.2	-1.7	35.7
UK (free)	134.9	-1.7	36.1	-2.6	23.8
USA (free)	676.2	-1.0	23.8	-1.0	23.8
USA (free)	434.4	-2.7	27.9	-1.7	17.4

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

Grootvlei 35p to 190p and Venterspoort 45p to 185p. As expected, the rest of the day suffered a mark-down on the back of the 599-point fall in Tokyo, prompted by the failure of the latest US bond auction in New York. Early trading was also complicated by another computer breakdown. Prices were in free-fall throughout the morning with the FT-SE 100 index down 40.6 at one stage.

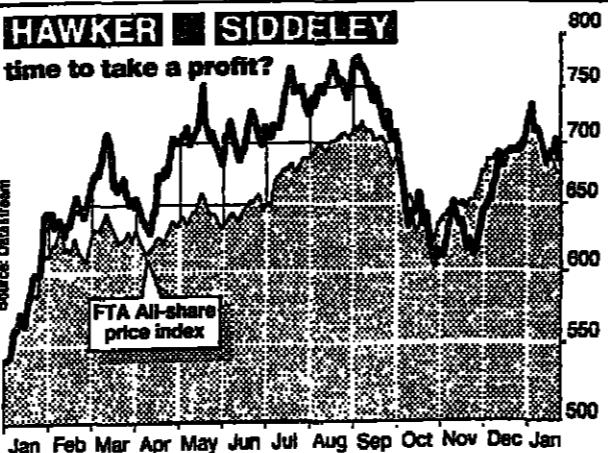
An opening fall of 60 points on Wall Street was not as bad as feared and enabled prices in London to claw back most of the day's losses, helped by a spot of bear closing. The index finished 12.5 lower at 2,278.6. The FT index of top 30 shares fell 11.0 to 1,826.6 with turnover reaching 531 million.

Selling was described as light. Market-makers know that the institutions remain highly liquid and are reluctant to push the market too low in case they are caught out.

Government securities spent a lacklustre day, worried by the prospect of higher interest rates. But gains of 1% at the longer end were even halfed.

Among leaders, ICI lost 10p at 210.86, BAT Industries 14p to 79p, Glaxo 6p to 709p and Bass 14p to 120.26p.

Hawker Siddeley fell 14p to 68p, after touching 680p, following a visit to the company by analysts on Tuesday. The company had nothing



new to tell the City and was certainly not gloomy about prospects.

But some brokers, like Barclays de Zoete Wedd, are urging clients to tighten their holdings after the recent

strong performance of the share price. This appears to have been the cause of yesterday's setback.

BZW said it still likes the company but recently reduced its profit estimates for 1989 and the current year because growth was showing signs of slowing owing to falling de-

mand from the US at the lighter end of the production range. It is now forecasting pre-tax profits of £200 million for 1989 and £220 million for 1990. Dealers say the news means that Ferranti may now decide to abandon its £187 million rights issue which had been put into play following the decision of Thomson-CSF of France to withdraw from bid talks with the troubled electronics group. GEC ended 5p dearer at 232p, helped by a buy circular from Smith New Court, the broker.

Racial Electronics finished 5p lower at 360p despite a series of bullish meetings with analysts at Claridges Hotel. The group, which was floated off from Racial Electronics, is forecasting continued strong growth throughout the 1990s and says that two mobile

strong performance of the share price. This appears to have been the cause of yesterday's setback.

The recently-privatised water companies made a firm start, fuelled by stock shortages among the market-makers and talk of French stake-building. But most gains were trimmed as a few profit-takers appeared on the scene. Rises were still seen in Severn Trent, million.

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The Nikkei index fell 599.04 to 56,778.98, although this trading amplified the fall.

Mr Robert Feldman, the chief economist at Salomon Brothers in Tokyo, said: "Nobody likes volatility, but it's natural before an election. I see no particular reason to lose one's calm. There was something of a technical run-up

politics and Tuesday's fall in US bond futures."

Mr Takeshi Yamamoto, the head of research at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, thought that further dramatic falls were unlikely.

He said: "Technically, it

will fall another 200 to 300 points. At that point, the market will stop falling on technical grounds, but there are still no reasons for a strong recovery on fundamental factors."

Next month's election does not promise an easy victory for the Liberal Democrats and this has been a big reason for the market's recent weakness. But I don't think it will have another 600 to 700-point one-day decline."

The yen gained a fraction against the dollar. Mr Yasushi Mieno, the Governor of the Bank of Japan, said it would continue to support the yen but dismissed speculation that another rise in Japanese interest rates was imminent.

He put the recent swings on the Tokyo stock market down to a technical correction to the surge in prices at the end of last year.

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Chancery Division

Law Report January 25 1990

Land use restriction overtaken by later deal

*Attorney General (Ex rel Scotland) v Barratt Manchester Ltd and Another*Before Mr Justice Scott
(Judgment January 19)

An agreement between a land-owner and a local authority under section 34 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1932, restricting the future development of the land (i) did not necessarily lapse if no scheme pursuant to it was ever approved by the minister, (ii) might be abrogated by a subsequent agreement between those parties' successors in title, and (iii) did not give rise to such a public right as entitled the Attorney General to enforce it in a relator action.

Mr Justice Scott, Vice-Chancellor of the County Palatine of Lancaster, so held in dismissing an action by the Attorney General at and by the relation of Mrs Sylvia Scotland, an inhabitant of the district of Turton, against Barratt Manchester Ltd and Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council, which claimed:

1 a declaration that an agreement under seal made on July 12, 1934 between Arthur Henways Ashworth and Bolton's statutory predecessors, Turton Urban District Council was valid and subsisting and binding on the defendants, and

2 an injunction restraining Barratt from acting in breach of that agreement by building upon any of some 70 acres of land known as Birtleshaw Farm.

Mr Leonid Price, QC and Mr Robert Sterling for the plaintiff; Mr Anthony Hogsett, QC and Mr W. Smith for Barratt; Miss Elizabeth Appleby, QC and Mr John Steel for Bolton.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT said that in 1934, when Mr Ashworth owned the property, he entered into an agreement with Turton that it and its user should be permanently restricted so as to preserve the land and for a private open space.

In 1985 Barratt had obtained planning permission for the erection of 475 houses on 35 acres of the property. Bolton declined to take action to enforce the 1934 agreement and the local residents, one of whom was Mrs Sylvia Scotland, were highly indignant about both

Corrections

In *R v Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, Ex parte Cotton* (The Times December 28, 1989) an additional junior counsel, Mr Michael Mylonas Widdall, appeared for the chief constable.

In *Parry v Barnard* (The Times January 23) Mr Simon Goldblatt, QC was sitting as a deputy High Court judge. He has not been appointed a judge.

Barratt's proposals and Bolton's attitude.

There were four issues:

1 Was the 1934 agreement enforceable?

2 Had an agreement entered into by Barratt and Bolton on December 13, 1988 discharged, by necessary implication, 35 acres of the property from restrictions in the 1934 agreement?

3 If not, had the Attorney General *locus standi*, in a relator action, to enforce the 1934 restrictions?

4 If so, should injunctive relief be granted restraining Barratt from continuing with the development?

Mr Ashworth in 1934 had been unwilling that his land should be subjected permanently to reservation as a private open space but he wanted to ensure that its use for agricultural purposes should not be impaired.

Hence his insistence, by clause 4 of the 1934 agreement, that any scheme prepared by the planning committee under the 1932 Act should preserve the existing buildings, prevent the erection of new non-agricultural buildings, prevent the making of new roads, and impose no restriction on the use of the property for agricultural purposes or any other purposes which would preserve it as a 'private open space'.

All that was incorporated in an agreement under seal dated December 13, 1988 executed by Bolton, Barratt, and the current owners of the property and expressed to be made pursuant to section 52 of the 1931 Act, the 'grandchild' of section 34 of the 1932 Act.

Shortly afterwards, Barratt bought the 35 acres for £1,056,000.

The collapse of Bolton's opposition to the development led the local residents to take up the cudgels on their own behalf: they persuaded the Attorney General to lend his name to a relator action and a writ was issued against Barratt and Bolton on August 1, 1989.

Enforceability of 1934 agreement

The first issue affected not only the 35 acres subject to the 1988 agreement, but the rest of the property.

Counsel for Barratt had submitted that since no scheme had ever come into effect the 1934 agreement had lapsed.

Mr Ashworth could not accept that. For him, the 1934 agreement was a scheme. They had no power to undertake, and had not undertaken, that a scheme would come into effect.

It was impossible to regard the collapse of the draft scheme as a matter of any real concern to Mr Ashworth. His concern was that if a scheme should be brought into effect, it would preserve to him the benefit of the clause 4 conditions.

Subject to the effect of the 1988 agreement, that of 1934 remained valid and enforceable.

Effect of 1934 agreement

It was common ground that

Act 1971, was dismissed by Mr Justice Kennedy in April 1987.

Since that development would infringe the restrictions contained in the 1934 agreement which had been registered in the Land Charges Registry, Barratt accordingly applied to the minister, under paragraph 88 of Schedule 24 to the 1971 Act, for the discharge of those acres from those restrictions.

Bolton objected on the same grounds they had used in resisting the application for outline planning permission and the minister (whose mind had apparently changed) upheld their objection for planning reasons.

Barratt then tried to persuade the minister and Bolton that the restrictions were no longer legally enforceable, while pursuing the application for outline planning permission to be conveyed to Bolton, who had been under no obligation to make any agreement with Barratt under section 52 of the 1971 Act.

Having done so, the contractor implied that, if repeated, *pro tanto*, the restrictions in the 1934 agreement were incapable.

Counsel's second point was that the 1988 agreement was expressed to have effect from the implementation in whole or in part of the development.

Since such implementation had not begun before the issue of the writ, counsel had protested that the courts ought not to permit a defendant to take a step after the commencement of an action to defeat the plaintiff's rights.

His Lordship found nothing in that point. The only question was whether the development, when begun, represented a breach of restrictions which had been made.

The local authority's decision

to exercise or not to exercise, any of those powers was amenable to judicial review and, to that extent, subject to control by the court.

Further, an action to enforce restrictions contained in a section 34 (or 52) agreement, not being one brought by a local authority, was not, in His Lordship's opinion, one brought to enforce a public right. It was, on analysis, an action brought to correct an improper exercise (or non-exercise) of power by that local authority.

Accordingly, the present action was not one properly brought by the Attorney General as plaintiff. The action was dismissed.

Solicitors: Lyons Wilson & Co, Manchester; Field, Cunningham & Co, Manchester; Mr John W. G. MacGregor, Bolton.

a conveyance between private parties even if the covenantor was a public authority; see *Attorney General v Poole Corporation* (1938) 1 Ch 23.

Why should the approach be any different if one party to the covenant was a private individual and the other a local authority?

It was no doubt true that the benefit of a covenant, under an agreement under section 34 of the 1932 Act now, section 32 of the 1971 Act) was taken for the benefit of the public but there was no 'right' property so-called, that rested in the public – nothing comparable to the right of members of the public to use a public highway or a public park.

The only right created by a restrictive covenant was a right of enforcement, but that right was by section 34(1) expressly conferred upon the local authority, not upon the public at large see *Lord Wilberforce in Gourvill v Union of Post Office Workers* [1978] AC 435, 477.

In addition to actions brought to enforce rights that could be enjoyed by the public at large, relator actions could be brought to restrain some threatened breach of the criminal law. But actions to enforce restrictions contained in section 34 agreements could not be brought under that head: it was a civil law matter.

The restriction in a section 34 (or section 52) agreement could be enforced by the local authority with whom it was made, or its statutory successor.

As counsel for Bolton had pointed out, that authority had express power to enforce, or by corollary not to enforce, its restrictions.

It was common ground that it had the power to release the restrictions, or, by agreement with the landowner, to vary them.

The local authority's decision to exercise or not to exercise, any of those powers was amenable to judicial review and, to that extent, subject to control by the court.

Once he had exercised his discretion to hear the case himself and had gone on to do so, it was too late to bring an appeal.

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Lord Justice Nourse, so stated on January 17 in dismissing a father's appeal from the decision of Judge Hannah in Darlington County Court to allow the mother's application to take their two young children to live permanently out of the jurisdiction in New Zealand.

HER LADYSHIP said that the application, although not unusual, was an extremely sad one. It would have the effect of depriving a non-custodial parent of his discretion, had gone to the case.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE, agreeing, said that the case, having been heard and decided by the judge in the county court, the Court of Appeal had no power to order its retrial in the High Court. The *Practice Direction* did not provide for any sanction for contravention of its terms.

Solicitors: Mr F. C. Underhill, Treasury Solicitor, Nabarro Nathanson.

Building hotel service yard is laying out of road

Hillingdon London Borough Council v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another

Before Mr Justice Macpherson
(Judgment January 18)

An planning inspector was not in error when he concluded that the building of a hotel service yard amounted to 'laying out or constructing a road or part of a road.'

Mr Peter Boydell, QC, Mr Charles George and Mr Charles Mylors for the local authority; Mr Guy Sankey for the secretary of state; Mr Lionel Read, QC for Novotel.

MR JUSTICE MAC-PHerson said that in 1982 Novotel were granted outline planning permission to build a 200-bed hotel on a green belt site in West London. Permission was granted by the secretary of state against the council's wishes. The permission had to be implemented by July 19, 1987.

The site was not the finest jewel in the green belt's crown.

The focus of the case was on some work done in May 1987 involving the excavation and clearing of 720 square metres of the site as a service yard. The inspector had decided that that work had amounted to the beginning of development.

Section 43 of the 1971 Act provides:

"(1) . . . development shall be taken to be begun on the earliest date on which any specified operation comprising in the development begins to be carried out."

(2) In subsection (1) . . .

Appealing refusal of transfer

In re P (Minors)

An appeal against a decision of a judge in the county court refusing to transfer family proceedings to the High Court.

The local authority's decision to exercise or not to exercise, any of those powers was amenable to judicial review and, to that extent, subject to control by the court.

Further, an action to enforce restrictions contained in a section 34 (or 52) agreement, not being one brought by a local authority, was not, in His Lordship's opinion, one brought to enforce a public right. It was, on analysis, an action brought to correct an improper exercise (or non-exercise) of power by that local authority.

Accordingly, the present action was not one properly brought by the Attorney General as plaintiff. The action was dismissed.

Solicitors: Lyons Wilson & Co, Manchester; Field, Cunningham & Co, Manchester; Mr John W. G. MacGregor, Bolton.

'specified operation' means any of the following, that is to say –

... (d) any operation in the course of laying out or constructing a road or part of a road . . .

Mr Peter Boydell, QC, Mr Charles George and Mr Charles Mylors for the local authority; Mr Guy Sankey for the secretary of state; Mr Lionel Read, QC for Novotel.

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The inspector had found a fact that in 1987, while Novotel had not been committed to the development, it had based its decision on the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* of a line of communication. That was evidently a conclusion of good common sense.

In considering 'colourable', each case had to be looked at on its own facts. The test was not simply whether Novotel intended to keep the planning permission alive, but whether they intended to carry on with the development.

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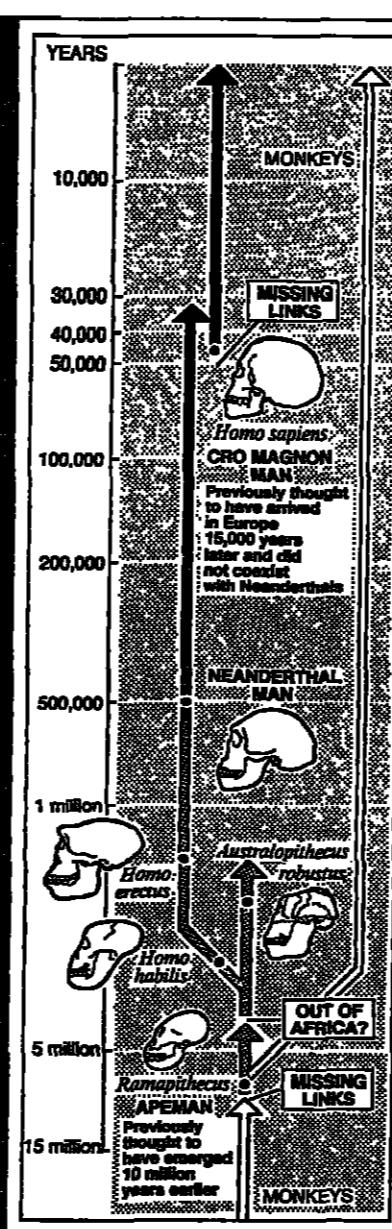
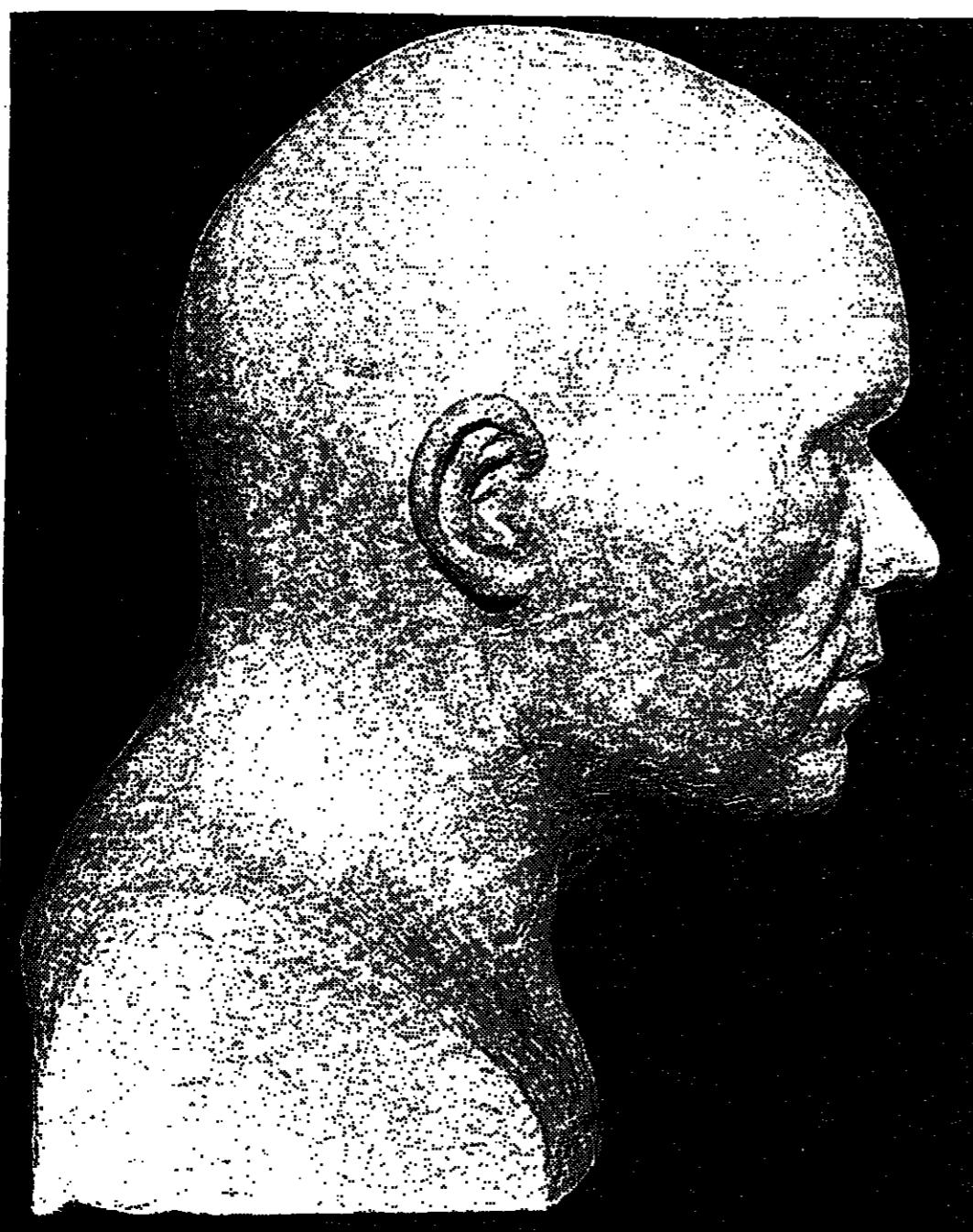
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- SCIENCE: FAUNA IN NEW STUDY
- MEDICINE: NEW AIDS HOPE
- TECHNOLOGY: MOON LAUNCH

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

THURSDAY JANUARY 25 1990



Re-writing history: did Cro-Magnon man, our direct ancestor, (left) co-exist with Neanderthal man (right)?

Disputed origins of the species

Recent research into the origins of man shows that there could be a touch of the Neanderthal in all of us. Recent discoveries in Spain and France challenge the idea that Neanderthals disappeared before Cro-Magnon man, our direct ancestor, arrived in Europe 30,000 to 35,000 years ago.

Evidence showing that the two co-existed for thousands of years is reinforced by dramatic finds, in the Middle East, of the most complete Neanderthal skeletons yet discovered. Dr Christopher Stringer, principal scientist in the department of palaeontology at the Natural History Museum in London, says: "We could have Neanderthal genes." But he believes the genetic influence of any local intermingling was too limited to influence the evolution of modern man.

In the absence of any other explanation to account for their rapid decline, such as genocide or being driven away by Cro-Magnons, Stringer suggests that Neanderthals' 200,000 year uninterrupted reign in Europe ended simply because the Cro-Magnons were "smarter". In the competition for limited food resources and the organization of their communities to cope with the environment, the newcomers were simply more efficient, he suggests.

In fact, Dr Robin Dunbar, of University College, London, and Dr Robert Foley, of Cambridge University, believe the impact of climatic change and other environmental pressures had had an important influence on the evolution of the species and its migration from Africa.

Dunbar says the lessons of how prehistoric man adapted to deteriorating climatic conditions could have future relevance. The early pre-human forms had brains little larger than those of the apes, and they survived on a diet similar to the fruit and leaves that chimpanzees eat. Their successors had a more abrasive diet based on hard nuts and seeds. But it was only about 100,000 years ago that a rapid development in brain size comparable to that of modern man occurred.

New research is calling into question much of what scientists believed about the origins of man.

Pearce Wright
reports

Dunbar says the explanation for this, and other fundamental biological changes, is more likely to be found in the neglected study of early ecological conditions. While scientists concentrated on the anatomy and cultural development of the Neanderthals, they neglected the possible links with the "mini" Ice Ages.

But from a growing volume of fossil evidence and the latest results of genetic studies, Stringer and Dr Peter Andrews have refined the so-called "Noah's Ark" theory. They speculate that all modern humans originated from one place, so far unknown, in Africa about 150,000 to 200,000 years ago and spread out to replace the Neanderthals.

But the difference between Neanderthals and later modern people is not as great as scientists once thought. Stringer's group has conducted some of the key work showing that Neanderthals were not the shambling, ape-like, feeble-brained creatures pictured by cartoonists, but walked as upright as we do. They were certainly very muscular and strongly built, but in body shape they were similar to people who live in cold climates and today, such as the Lapps and Eskimos.

Europe has provided a key area for investigating the development of modern humans because of the stability of the sediments in which fossils have been preserved and which can be reliably dated.

Yet skeletons of Neanderthals were mostly incomplete until recent discoveries by Dr Yoel Rak and his colleagues at Tel Aviv University, who have examined fossils from the Kebara cave, in Israel. Stringer, who recently returned from a visit to Kebara, says this exciting evidence shows that Neanderthals and modern humans co-existed in that region for about 60,000 years.

But, in resolving a long-standing mystery, some of the latest findings from Kebara reject the notion of a direct ancestor-descendant relationship between the two forms of human.

In earlier reconstructions from incomplete skeletons, archaeologists had been misled into believing the Neanderthals had a uniquely shaped pubic bone in front of the pelvis, giving them exceptionally wide hips with, in females, an enlarged birth canal. But examination of a virtually complete pelvis from Kebara revealed that it was simply a different shape from humans, not bigger at all.

Other evidence from the Israeli site indicates that Neanderthals contributed little to the evolution of modern man. The anatomy of the two groups remained distinct.

Research by teams working with Dr James Bischoff, of the US Geological Survey, and Dr Victoria Cabrera Valdes, from the Department of Prehistory and Archaeology, in Madrid, at two well-known caves occupied by Neanderthals and, later, Cro-Magnons, produced new dates for the transition.

By employing the new analytical technique of accelerator mass spectrometry, which is much more accurate than conventional carbon-dating, they decided modern man was around the site some 40,000 to 45,000 years ago. That date places Cro-Magnon man in Europe 5,000 to 10,000 years earlier than had been believed.

The newcomers to Europe and Asia via the Middle East, according to the Noah's Ark view, were driven away by Neanderthals; whether they were driven away, killed or had moved before the immigrants arrived.

The established view of human lineage is that it consists of a succession of three species: the first is *Homo habilis*, which evolved in Africa about two million years ago and never strayed outside the continent. *Homo erectus* came next, appearing in Africa about 1.6 million years ago; some populations had migrated by about 1 million years ago. Relatively recently, *Homo sapiens* emerged in two stages. Half a million years ago, *archaic Homo sapiens* appeared, to which the Neanderthal belonged. He was

as yet, no clues have been found as to what happened to the Neanderthals; whether they were driven away, killed or had moved before the immigrants arrived.

The details of the Spanish investigation, reported by Bischoff in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*, include illustrations of two sets of tools made by both of the early occupants. To the expert eye, the different artefacts, one set made from quartz and the other of finely shaped flint by Cro-Magnons, represent distinctive, separate technologies.

Comparison of the two Spanish sites, 350 miles apart, show remarkable consistency, although the periods of occupation differ.

succeeded within the last 200,000 years by modern *Homo sapiens*.

One of the big disputes in the origin-of-man story came when molecular biologists said they could show that African apes were closely related to humans, but that Asian apes were not.

A yet bigger surprise was in store when it was inferred from molecular data that humans had diverged from the African line of apes not 2.5 million years ago, but less than 7.5 million years ago.

But, even with the most advanced laboratory aids, the scientists have difficulty assembling a complete picture because their

evidence is fragmented across Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Moreover, the jigsaw has been disturbed dramatically by French researchers who claim that human ancestors might have arrived in Europe 2.5 million years ago, more than 1.5 million years earlier than previous estimates. Dr Eugene Bonifay, from the National Centre for Scientific Research, in Marseilles, suggests, in his findings on fossil tools, that the first of our ape-like ancestors to come out of Africa were *Homo habilis*. This species was thought to have lived only in Africa.

World experts will be forced to rethink the lineage of our origins should this revelation be proved correct.

Planet fakery exposed

Johannes Kepler, the father of modern astronomy, fabricated data in presenting his theory of how the planets move around the sun, apparently to bolster acceptance of the theory, a scholar claims.

William Donahue, an American science historian, says the evidence of Kepler's scientific fakery is contained in an elaborate chart he presented in 1609 to support his theory. Kepler showed that the planets move in elliptical orbits rather than in circles, as Copernicus had suggested.

In his book describing the insight, Kepler said it was confirmed by independent calculations of the planets' positions. In fact, Donahue says, Kepler derived the data by calculations based on the theory itself. Kepler anticipated criticism of his theory: for centuries, the circle had been considered the only geometrical shape perfect enough to describe the movement of heavenly bodies.

Kepler's fakery is one of the earliest known examples of the use of false data by a giant of modern science.



Falsified data: Johannes Kepler

Writing in *The Journal of the History of Astronomy*, Donahue says the fabricated data appear in calculated positions for the planet Mars, which Kepler used as a case study for all planetary motion. "He fudged things," Donahue says.

Experts, nearly unanimous in defending Kepler, say his act may be less reprehensible than it seems. For instance, methods of investigation and reporting at the

start of the scientific revolution were often quite rudimentary.

"Kepler was one of the people who invented modern science," says Walter Stewart, a researcher with the US National Institutes of Health who is helping Congress investigate cases of scientific fraud. "It's not clear his standards were the same as ours."

Dr Owen Gingerich, a professor of astronomy and science history at the Center for Astrophysics of Harvard University and the Smithsonian Institution in Cambridge, Massachusetts, says Kepler's act may, in its day, simply have been a legitimate rhetorical flourish meant to persuade recalcitrant colleagues of the correctness of his insight. "Normally one would not expect there to be a rhetoric of science, or a political part of the presentation," Gingerich says. "But in reality that element is very important."

Kepler's proposal of elliptical orbits was "a radical departure from anything before," he says. "You could hardly sell that without making it look like you'd done it with tremendous accuracy."

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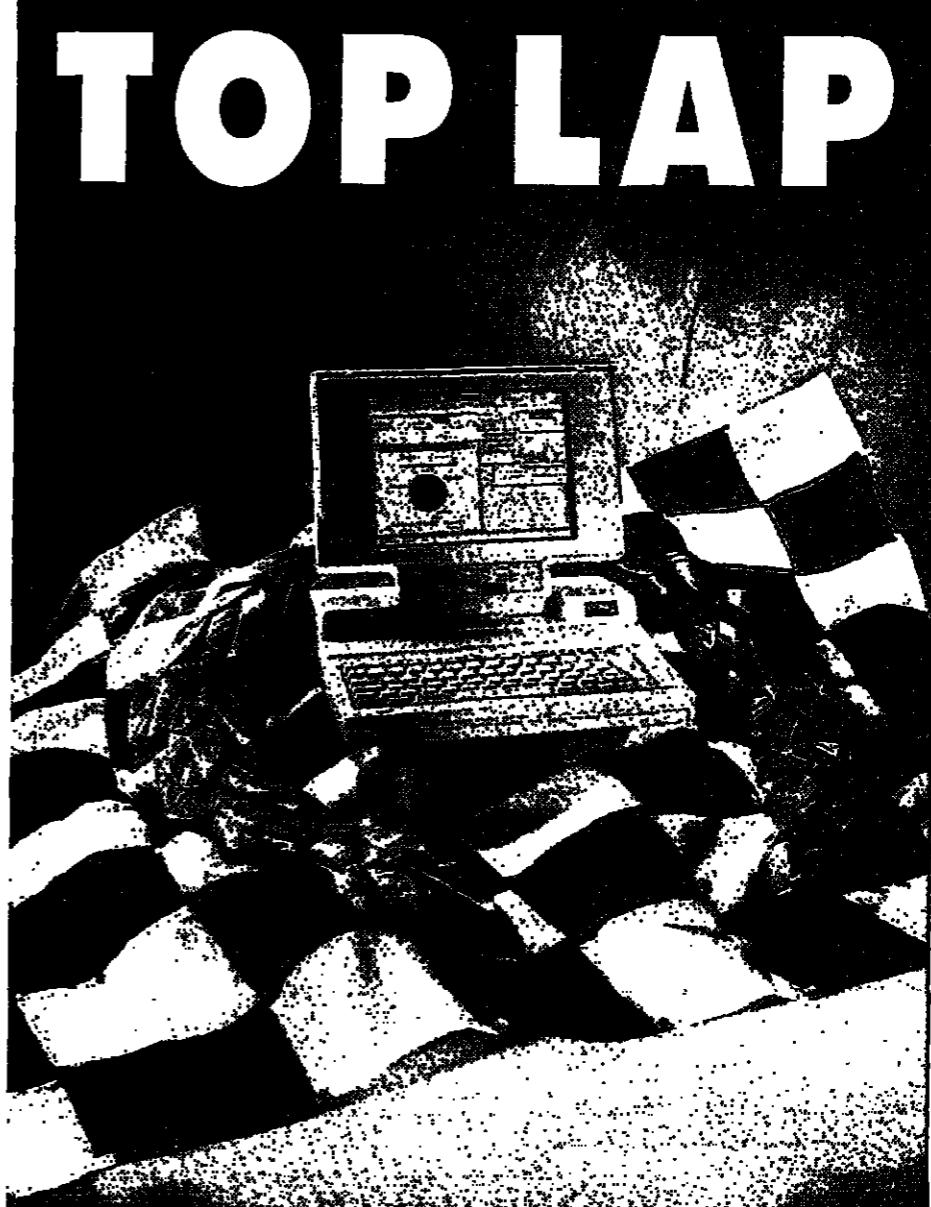
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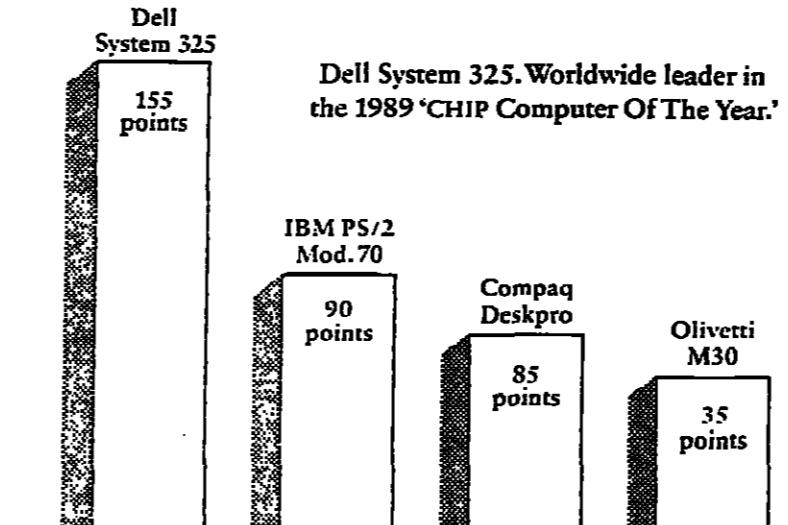
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Boost for Aids fighters

Thomson Prentice
reports on growing
optimism among
Aids researchers that
the disease may
be defeated ...

The strongest signal yet that Aids could eventually be defeated was delivered by a leading American researcher this week, coinciding with promising results from an experimental vaccine being tested in Britain.

The news may represent a long-awaited turning point in the fight against the pandemic. By the end of the decade, says Dr Anthony Fauci, director of an American national research effort, Aids could become a manageable chronic disease that no longer shortens life expectancy.

Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Bethesda, Maryland, has an international reputation in Aids research. He is head of an experimental drug-testing programme involving 10,000 people at 46 American medical centres.

He bases his hopes for the new decade on a growing understanding of the Aids virus, the successes achieved so far in treatment of the disease, and a change in the way that the United States government is making new drugs available.

Until now, Aids drugs have been developed largely by going back to existing drugs which have potential anti-viral activity. The best example of this is zidovudine, or AZT, marketed by Wellcome, which began life as a cancer treatment but which has become uniquely successful in keeping Aids symptoms at bay.

Now, according to Fauci, insights into how the HIV infects cells, kills them and reproduces is leading to new products aimed directly at each of those stages in the growth of the virus. The World Health Organization says more than 40 anti-Aids drugs are being developed.

"Already there are several drugs ready to go into human clinical trials that have been tailored to HIV," he says.

Fauci points out that although the 1980s were dark years in the Aids war, there were successes. In 1985, fewer than 40 per cent of Aids patients survived for 18 months, by 1987, 60 per cent lived at least



Experimenting with hope: most of the world's large laboratories are doing Aids drug or vaccine research, and 40 anti-Aids drugs are being developed

long after diagnosis. Researchers have also found treatments which could help people infected with HIV but who have not developed symptoms. Drugs can now sharply reduce the frequency of attacks of *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia, an often fatal Aids complication.

In London, doctors at St Stephen's Hospital in Chelsea are cautiously optimistic that a vaccine given to volunteers there could eventually give lasting protection against infection by the virus.

Trials of the experimental HGP-30 vaccine, discovered in the US, have produced encouraging results among a group of 24 men volunteers. Most of the volunteers, who will be monitored for at least a year, have been immunized by the vaccine for up to 14 weeks, without signs of toxic side-effects. They have produced antibody and cellular responses considered to be vital in the vaccine's development.

... but a cancer common in HIV-infected patients is spreading

A unknown virus that is sexually transmitted may be the cause of a rare cancer which strikes many Aids sufferers, researchers believe. The condition, Kaposi's sarcoma (KS) is 20,000 times more common in people with Aids than in the general population, but is increasingly seen among those who are not infected with the Aids virus, according to two reports in *The Lancet* this week.

Some doctors believe that a new epidemic of KS is spreading in Africa, the Caribbean, and among

homosexual men in the United States. They think that the disease was probably introduced simultaneously with Aids among the homosexual community in the US 10 or more years ago.

Kaposi's sarcoma causes purple or brown blotches on the skin, but also attacks the lungs, brain and intestines. Although it is seldom fatal in itself, it is a contributory factor in many Aids deaths. Suspicions that a new virus is involved have been raised by a study by researchers at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, which monitor the Aids epidemic in the US.

Evidence of an increase in KS among homosexual men who are not HIV carriers has been found by another research team in New York.

The Atlanta group discovered that, among Aids sufferers, KS is more common in those who were infected with HIV through sexual

contact than through contaminated blood. Women with Aids are more likely to have KS if their sexual partners were bisexual men rather than intravenous drug abusers. Homosexual or bisexual men with Aids are at greatest risk.

KS may be more prevalent among heterosexuals in the Caribbean, central America and Africa than in the US, they add. "Kaposi's sarcoma in persons with Aids may be caused by an as yet unidentified infectious agent, transmitted mainly through sexual contact," they conclude.

SCIENCE REPORT

Step closer to arthritis cure

A natural substance discovered in human cells could lead to new ways of combating inflammation and diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis.

In the January 25 issue of *Nature* (vol 343, pp 336-346), Robert C. Thompson and colleagues from Synergen Incorporated, a biomedicine company based in Boulder, Colorado, have isolated a protein that blocks the action of interleukin-1 (IL-1), a natural hormone that has been implicated in inflammatory disorders.

IL-1 is secreted by certain types of blood cell and has a variety of effects on different tissues in the body. The white blood cells that trap foreign bodies such as bacteria produce IL-1 to induce

other kinds of blood cells to proliferate. Its action in other tissues can lead to inflammation. IL-1 works by sticking to special "receptors" on the surfaces of target cells, whether other kinds of blood cell, cells that line blood-vessel walls or cartilage cells in joints. Like keys in a lock, these receptors are made specially to interact with IL-1 molecules. This docking process sparks off biochemical changes in the target cell.

The power of IL-1 is so great, and its influence so pervasive, one would expect the body to produce its own watchdog to ensure that IL-1's activities do not get out of hand. This is what Thompson and colleagues have found. For the same cells that make IL-1 also produce an inhibitor substance that can stick to IL-1 receptors. IL-1 and its inhibitor race each other across the body in search of free receptors.

Each receptor has room for only one molecule at a time: a receptor playing host to an inhibitor molecule cannot receive a "genuine" IL-1 molecule. This kind of inhibition is not unknown, but what is remarkable in this case is that the inhibitor can lock into the IL-1 receptor without setting off any kind of biochemical reaction inside the target cell. When IL-1 finds to the receptor, it sticks to the same receptor, it is odd that the latter provokes a response, whereas the former does not. Why this is so is unknown, but it raises a number of possibilities. First, the careful use of the inhibitor, particularly in animal models of human disease, could help distinguish those aspects of inflammatory disease that are related to IL-1 from those that are not. In short, it could clarify the part played by IL-1 in disease.

Second, study of the molecular differences between IL-1 and the inhibitor might yield clues about their different actions and principles about how molecules bind to receptors. But researchers will be most intrigued by the possibility of a substance that is, at the same time, a perfect fit for IL-1 and a possible basis for drugs free from inflammatory side-effects.

Henry Gee

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THE DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORT

Continued on next page

THE RSPCA

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

Winning the fight against cruelty

RSPCA

Blood sports are being revived and a million calls are made to the society each year. Yet there is ground for optimism, Malcolm Brown reports

The British have traditionally thought of themselves as second to none in the way they care for animals, but they are wrong, says Andrew Richmond, chief executive of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Not only is there widespread cruelty, indicated by more than a million telephone calls received by the RSPCA inspectorate in 1988, but some types of animal abuse, such as dog-fighting, which people thought had gone for ever, are reappearing.

The villains are turning to all sorts of ways of exercising their own strange attitudes," Richmond says. "It is a depressing outlook, but, fortunately, he says, the increase in cruelty, which is perpetrated by a minority, is paralleled by a greater public awareness of the problem. "We hope," he says, "that the one will offset the other."

One of the most persistent targets of cruelty seems to be the dog. In 1988, 1,100 of the 1,800 cruelty cases successfully prosecuted by the RSPCA involved dogs, the highest number ever and the highest proportion – 62 per cent – in the society's history.

The dog is a big problem in another way. About 300,000 perfectly healthy dogs have to be put down every year in Britain because they are strays or unwanted. The RSPCA itself deals with 100,000 dogs a year. It

manages to find new homes for 50,000, but the rest have to be put down.

The RSPCA will invest nearly £1 million in a neutering programme this year. Richmond would dearly like to change the public perception of dog neutering so that it matches that of cats. Ten or 15 years ago, cats, like dogs, were a big problem and the public believed neutering was wrong.

"Then, for some reason, the public's perception changed and you can neuter a cat without any problem at all now," he says. "The number of cats that we have for rehoming in our homes now has fallen. If somebody comes to see us and asks for a cat, we have to say we have only a couple. Even five years ago, we'd have had 40 or 50 in every home."

The dog problem is, of course, only one of a seemingly infinite number of issues that the society is tackling.

Its briefing document, "RSPCA Analysis of Major Areas of Concern for Animal Welfare", is a disturbing reminder of the remainder of the

of ways in which man purposefully or by omission mistreats animals, from illegal cock-fighting to the use of animals – 17,000 in 1988 – for experiments to test cosmetics.

A particular concern as 1992 and the single European market approaches, Richmond says, is the inevitable watering down of the regulations that cover the transport of live animals. He says: "The word 'export' will be removed



John Illingworth with Ben: some owners want to get rid of a dog because it does not match the wallpaper

within the European Community and all the constraints and regulations concerning the transport of animals, which in our view has

never been ideal, will be reduced to the lowest common denominator. The animals will suffer because of the lack of proper control.

"This is a great dilemma for us. We are trying to ensure that there are proper controls on the transport of animals. But the fact is that in the end the rules will be less stringent within the EC than they are in this country at the moment, and I have to say that in this country they were pretty inadequate, anyway."

At present, when transported animals cross a European border, they are checked by border control and the animals are often left to rest at yards specially built for the

purpose. By 1992, that sort of border facility will disappear.

"We're going to have to set up artificial resting places at strategic points throughout Europe," Richmond says. "But this requires the agreement of other countries that are less inclined to be helpful on these issues."

The RSPCA has always opposed the transport of live animals, believing they should be killed as near the point of production as possible. But it has to be pragmatic if it is to do any good.

Richmond believes that this pragmatism has given the RSPCA its campaigning strength. The society's approach to issues such as experiments on animals is that idealism should be maintained, but be tempered with realism.

"Some people say it should be stopped forthwith," Richmond says. "We say that. But meanwhile we have to look after the animals in the animal houses in experimental establishments in the best manner possible."

There is a string of issues – deer farming, fishing, factory farming – where that pragmatic balance has to be struck if the RSPCA is to be effective.

He adds: "There are some people and organizations in this country who take a fairly fundamentalist view that things should be stopped and that is the end of the story. The RSPCA takes a more realistic view."

"Though saying on the one hand that we agree that things should be stopped, we must ensure that the animals that exist under the present arrangements are handled in the most humane manner."

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THE TIMES STRUGGLE

Inspector John Illingworth will never forget the first animal he had to put down. "It was a greyhound," he recalls. "The owner had died. It was only five, but the wife did not want it. I stood by while the vet did it. Without shame, I went bitterly at the waste."

He has since had to deal with owners who want to get rid of a dog because it does not match the new wallpaper or carpet.

His brief is to prevent cruelty, by patrolling visiting pet shops, breeding and boarding establishments, zoos, farms, riding schools and animal sales; and monitoring the transport of live animals.

In 1988, the RSPCA investigated 80,120 complaints of cruelty, resulting in 1,743 convictions. When Illingworth, aged 39, responded to an advertisement for inspectors 10 years ago, he was one of more than 2,000 applicants for 24 jobs. Today, the RSPCA does not need to advertise. Last year, 1,200 would-be inspectors wrote in of their own accord.

An inspector's seven-month training begins at the society's headquarters at Horsham, West Sussex, and costs £12,500. It includes abseiling in Wales for cliff rescues, tree-climbing for saving cats, stable management and small animal euthanasia training.

An inspector receives a legal grounding and learns to prepare his cases for court. Illingworth, who patrols 1,000 square miles around Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, says: "The course was difficult. The teachers tried to warn us. But nothing could prepare us for what we had to do outside."

He won an award for his investigation into an egg-laying unit, where about 20,000 birds were tightly caged with no ventilation. He was paying for a man to watch out for cases of cruelty.

Prosecution was only one tactic taken by the RSPCA. Education, the founders believed, was just as important, and they published tracts and sermons and began to proselytize through schools. They also pushed for more legislation, notably the Protection of Animals Act 1911, which was hailed as the "Animals' Charter." It covered almost every imaginable form of animal ill-treatment and greatly increased the severity of the punishments that the courts could hand out.

Ruth Gledhill

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Born in the bull-baiting age

We can all get things wrong. When, in 1800, Sir William Pulteney, introduced a Bill to prevent bull-baiting it failed, and *The Times* cheered roundly (Malcolm Brown writes). Any law that interfered with the disposition of a man's time or property was tyranny, *The Times* said. The poor bulls, scarcely rated a mention.

In Georgian England, man's liberties were everything, the rights of animals non-existent.

In London and other cities, says the RSPCA's historian,

Arthur Moss, in his book *Valiant Crusade*, it was not unusual for horses to be beaten to death, and bull-baiting, bear-baiting and cock-fighting were popular.

But the tide was turning. A leading reformer was Richard Martin, an Irish barrister. His most important contribution was to get the first anti-cruelty law through Parliament in 1822. The Act, which applied

to cattle and other farm animals, was aimed at those who had "charge, care or custody" of them.

Martin fought one case under his own anti-cruelty law that was to get him in the history books. In the case of Bill Burns, he accused a costermonger of cruelty to a donkey. But the magistrates seemed unimpressed by the horrific details. Martin left

the court to return with the donkey.

"The magistrate," says Antony Brown in *Who Cares for Animals?*, "had no choice but to fine Burns."

The incident inspired a popular music hall song:

If I had a donkey wot

wouldn't go

D'ye think I'd wallop him?

No, no, no!

But gentle means I'd try, d'y see,

Because I hate all cruelty.

The society that was eventually to become the RSPCA was formed in St Martin's Lane, central London, in 1824.

The real moving force behind it was not a public figure but an east London vicar, the Rev Arthur Broome. So dedicated was Broome to animal rights that almost as soon as Martin's Act became law, he

Helping Animals in Scotland

The Scottish SPCA works to encourage a better understanding of animals and to prevent their ill-treatment, carrying out similar duties in Scotland to the RSPCA in England and Wales. Its team of inspectors is based throughout the country and backed by eight welfare centres —

including Scotland's only cleaning centre for oiled birds — over 60 volunteer branches, a growing membership and small headquarters staff, including a flourishing education unit in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The Scottish SPCA, which celebrated its own 150th anniversary in 1989, congratulates the RSPCA on the 150th anniversary of its Royal title.

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SQUASH RACKETS

**Sick Owen
justifies
Edwards's
hard line**

By Colin McQuillan

Debates over selection in the two leading teams of the Puma's Premier League this week prompted marginal differences, which may help decide the title. Village Leisure Hotels moved into second place with another 4-1 win, ensured by their plain but effective lower order, this time beating bottom-feeding West Systems Survey. But Ray Edwards, their stylish Australian first string, refused to let the more like strengths of Sturt Haistone, the South African, again fail to construct his usual crisp attack.

The league leaders, Leeds Welsh Wizards, took the court for a 5-0 win over Allports Northern in Cardiff, only after Robert Edwards, the team manager, had rejected a strong plea from his captain, Adrian Davies, for the inclusion of Andrew Evans, a Welsh international, instead of Robert Owen, an English international.

Owen reported in sick, decided to play then called in sick again," Edwards said. "Adrian took the view that Andrew should be drafted in at fifth string and the order adjusted upwards. I decided Owen should stop dithering and that the job he is paid for at third string."

Davies will no doubt take note that the third successive Wizards whitewash was ensured when the team manager's choice won 5-0, 9-7, 9-4, 9-2 against Cardiff van der Waal.

Village Leisure, by comparison, had a more comfortable ride in the lower order. Colin Keith, their most improved player and worth a third place, cannot get into the side.

The selection debate is over which the two reported first string should play in the vital and imminent leadership clashes. Eyles, world No. 12, lost to Nigel Stiles, England No. 29, playing at first string for the West Systems side. The previous week he lost to Brett Martin, of Embassy Epsom Priory and before that to Colin Keith, his own reserve colleague, in the World Young Masters.

"I have Stuart Haistone of South Africa on the books and I have been pondering the sense of bringing him in to replace a popular first string, who is obviously suffering a confidence crisis," John Le Lievre, the team manager, said.

RESULTS: Leeds Welsh Wizards 6, Allports Northern 0, Sturt Haistone 4, West Systems Survey 1, GT Superkings Abergavenny 0, Lambs Club 5.

Matches Played: Welsh Wizards 6, Allports Northern 4, Sturt Haistone 4, West Systems Survey 1, GT Superkings Abergavenny 0, Lambs Club 5.

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Arthurson remarks exasperate Oxley

By Keith Macklin

David Oxley, the chief executive of the Rugby Football League, yesterday gave an angry reaction to comments by Ken Arthurson, the president of the Australian Rugby League, on the RFL's decision to set the first international match of the series against Australia, to Wembley.

Arthurson said his League committee had not been consulted in the choice of Wembley. He added: "I don't know why an international has been scheduled for Wembley. I can only hope the League has done sufficient research into the project and has convincing evidence that the match will be a big enough attraction. We certainly weren't consulted about such a radical move."

On the other hand, the Australians have been pressing us for years to take an Australian match to Wembley, and it is the height of arrogance and impudence to suggest that the board of directors might not have made the necessary research and laid the necessary groundwork for such an occasion.

Maurice Lindsay, the marketing director, and other officials have been to London to research the project, and I feel that with the development of the game during the last decade the time is ripe for Wembley. To suggest otherwise, and to criticize our decision is totally unacceptable and an insult to the board of directors."

Oxley quoted a letter dated August 31, 1989, in which Bob Abbott, the general manager of the Australian League, said: "I am sure that both Ken and I would support any well promoted instead of an international match Wembley."

Oxley said that no country had done more to promote international rugby league in recent years than Great Britain. "We were very impressed by Australia's arrangements for the 100th international between Australia and Great Britain, played at Sydney in 1988. We have nothing to learn from the Australians in the spirit of promotion," Oxley added.

Sheffield Eagles, who have led a wandering existence since the Safety of Sports Grants Act drove them from Owlerton Stadium, are to move a home to Doncaster. They will be allowed to use the all-seater 44,000-capacity stadium being prepared for the World Student Games in Sheffield next year.

REAL TENNIS

Snow too severe for Jones

By Sally Jones

The two seeded players in action at the US Open Real Tennis championships at the Philadelphia Racquet Club yesterday stroked through their opening matches against relatively inexperienced American opponents, dropping only one set.

The favorite, Wayne Davies of Australia, the holder and reigning world champion, though only partly fit after a knee injury, had no problems against Steve Novak while the third seed, Julian Snow of Britain, the world's leading amateur, was far too severe for Randy Jones of New York, who never troubled the marker.

In an all-American battle Peter Clement of Philadelphia played craftily to defeat the powerful Peter De Svastich, of New York, in straight sets. De Svastich forced frequently but thundered too many of his shots on to the penthouse, giving his opponent a string of easy winners. Clement now meets the former world champion, Chris Ronaldson, the second seed, in the second round.

Yesterday's action was suspended. First round: S Novak v P Novak, 6-3, 6-3; R Jones v D O'Byrne, 6-2, 6-4, 6-5; P Clement v P De Svastich, 6-3, 6-2, 6-0; J Snow (GB) v R Jones, 6-0, 6-0, 6-0; J Snow (GB) v R Jones, 6-0, 6-0, 6-0.

MOTOR SPORT

Porsche may return to Formula One racing

The Porsche chairman, Helmut Brätschki, said in Stuttgart yesterday that the German sports-car manufacturer "was considering a return to Formula One racing, but not before 1991".

It has been an open secret for some time that Porsche has designed a 12-cylinder 3.5-litre engine suitable for the Grand Prix formula, and Brätschki has confirmed that a new Porsche engine will be available in time for the start of the 1991 season. However, the inference that his company might be considering an involvement beyond that of an engine supplier is something new.

Either way, Porsche will once again be looking for what Formula One refers to as "serious and mighty sponsors" to help finance its company's Formula One activities. During the 80s TAG, the international high-tech conglomerate, paid for the Porsche-designed and

FOOTBALL: ALBION ADMIT THAT THEY HAVE A GAME AND A HALF ON THEIR HANDS AT HOME AGAINST CHARLTON

A management team next to none

By Chris Moore

Five times winners of the FA Cup, West Bromwich Albion have been conspicuous by their absence from progressing beyond the third round for the last six years. Only five clubs have won the trophy more times. Only Arsenal, Newcastle and Everton can better Albion's record of 10 finals. And only Everton have reached more semi-finals: 22 to Albion's 19.

The Baggies were the first club to win the FA Cup with an all-English team; and they are the only club to have won the "alternative" double - Cup and second division championship in the same season. That triumph in 1931 was sealed with a 3-2 win over Charlton Athletic - Saturday's fourth-round opponents - a week after they had beaten Birmingham City 2-1 at Wembley.

Coincidentally, Albion also beat Charlton on their way to Wembley. But to Brian Talbot, Albion's player-manager, and his assistant, Stuart Pearson, that kind of "folklore" belongs with the statisticians.

"I saw Charlton beat Bradford 3-0 in the last round and, believe me, it could have been 5-0 or 6-0," Pearson said.

The last time they looked that day was a side at the bottom of the first division. We're happy to have home advantage, but other than that we've got a game and a half on our hands."

Yet, as management teams go, few of those on Saturday can match the collective experience Talbot and Pearson have acquired during their playing careers in this competition. Talbot, like several Everton players but few others, has the distinction of appearing in three successive FA Cup Finals between 1978 and 1980 for Ipswich and Arsenal, while Pearson went to Wembley three times in five years, twice with Manchester United and also with West Ham.

"It would have been four great games in the third round against Everton when we were top of the table. But those two matches ruined us for the rest of the season because of injuries to Goodman and Anderson. But we proved against Wimbledon that we can do, and if we give a repeat performance on Saturday we could go into the last 16 with two first division scalps on our belt."

Inquiry crucial to Fulham's future

Fulham's battle to save their Craven Cottage ground from redevelopment reaches a crucial stage on Tuesday.

An inquiry is being held into the plans by Hammersmith and Fulham Council to impose a compulsory purchase order on the third division club's 93-year-old ground.

The council's plans will be opposed at the hearing, at Hammersmith Town Hall, by the property developers, Cabra Estates, who own Fulham's lease on Craven Cottage, which runs out on May 31.

The company then intends to develop the site, building 240 luxury flats with no room for the football club.

The council is backing the club's fight to stay at Craven Cottage, and it plans to demand a football ground in exchange for the site, with flats - but the first councillors must get the compulsory purchase order passed.

Fulham supporters have been canvassing support for the council's plans. Letters have been written to the Environment Secretary, Chris Patten, every League supporters' club, the

former Luton chairman, Denis Mortimer, who was reelected six years ago to a row over the club's failed plan to move to Milton Keynes, and to John Renshaw, chairman of the RFL.

He disclosed that he is one of the interested parties following last week's announcement that club directors are prepared to sell their shares to bring in new capital to safeguard the club's financial future.

Mortimer may return

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BASKETBALL

CUP WINNERS' CUP: Quarter-final group: Northumbria 62; Bristol Brains 62; Oxford 62; West Bromwich 62; Preston 62; Stockport 71; PAOK Saloniki 63; Real Madrid 77.

EUROPEAN CUP: Quarter-final group: Northumbria 62; Bristol Brains 62; Oxford 62; West Bromwich 62; Preston 62; Stockport 71; PAOK Saloniki 63; Real Madrid 77.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Welsh Atlantic 100; North Cheshire Hornets 102; Phoenix Suns 106; Miami Heat 106; Philadelphia 76ers 106; Boston Celtics 106; New Jersey Nets 106; Los Angeles Lakers 106; New York Knicks 106; Dallas Mavericks 106; Chicago Bulls 106; Dallas Mavericks 106; Boston Celtics 106; New Jersey Nets 106; Sacramento Kings 106; Houston Rockets 106; Golden State Warriors 106; Minnesota Timberwolves 102; Orlando Magic 106; Indiana Pacers 106; Detroit Pistons 106; Atlanta Hawks 106; Denver Nuggets 106; Phoenix Suns 106; Los Angeles Lakers 106; New York Knicks 106; Dallas Mavericks 106; Chicago Bulls 106; Dallas Mavericks 106; Boston Celtics 106; New Jersey Nets 106; Sacramento Kings 106; Houston Rockets 106; Golden State Warriors 106; Minnesota Timberwolves 102; Orlando Magic 106; Indiana Pacers 106; Detroit Pistons 106; Atlanta Hawks 106; Denver Nuggets 106; Phoenix Suns 106; Los Angeles Lakers 106; New York Knicks 106; Dallas Mavericks 106; Chicago Bulls 106; Dallas Mavericks 106; 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Detroit

Identity card scheme is to be sidelined

By Robin Oakley
Political Editor

The Government is preparing to climb down on the football membership identity cards scheme. David Waddington, the Home Secretary, is expected to announce on Monday that the scheme is being put on ice after sharp criticism contained in Lord Justice Taylor's report into the Hillsborough tragedy, in which 95 people died.

Ministers have decided that the embarrassment of a climbdown is better than risking defeat in the Commons when MPs are asked once more to back the scheme.

The Football Spectators Act, giving the Government powers to set up the Football Membership Authority (FMA), is already law. But the Government got the legislation through only after MPs had been promised two debates and votes before the scheme was put into operation.

One debate was to be on the lessons of the Taylor inquiry for the Football Membership Authority before that body is



Critic: Lord Justice Taylor

set up, the other was to be on the precise shape of any scheme proposed by the FMA.

Government whips believe there would be difficulty in securing support in Parliament for an identity cards scheme after the unfavourable verdict from Lord Justice Taylor.

Mrs Thatcher is understood to have accepted the advice of senior ministers that the Government should leave on the Statute Book the powers it has taken to set up the scheme but

fail to activate them until public opinion changes.

Opponents of the original scheme were rejoicing after *The Times* reported yesterday that the Taylor report had come down against the identity cards scheme, the Labour Party called for it to be scrapped on the ground that it was likely to intensify the danger to spectators outside football grounds.

Roy Hattersley, the deputy Leader of the Labour Party, said: "Clearly the Government cannot go on against its own evidence, its own report and put the lives and safety of football supporters in jeopardy."

He said that the emergency meeting of ministers at Downing Street on Tuesday – as reported in *The Times* – had not been concerned with football safety but with saving the Prime Minister's face.

Sir Neil Macfarlane, the former Conservative Minister for Sport, said that if reports of the Taylor verdict were true, the Government must drop identity cards.

"Lord Justice Taylor would be the second of two distinct

set-ups, the other was to be on the precise shape of any scheme proposed by the FMA.

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He said that the emergency

meeting of ministers at Downing Street on Tuesday – as reported in *The Times* – had not been concerned with football safety but with saving the Prime Minister's face.

Though they had hoped to have the scheme operating early in the 1990-91 football season, ministers have said that they would not introduce membership cards until they were 100 per cent happy that the technology involved would do what was required and that the introduction of compulsory membership cards would not make safety worse.

Although his report's contents remain a secret in Whitehall, Lord Justice Taylor is understood to warn that such a scheme would produce crushes outside the turnstiles while people waited to have their cards checked.

Mrs Thatcher insisted on the Football Spectators Bill going ahead when the football authorities refused her request to introduce voluntarily a membership scheme and the Government ignored pleas from all sides to sideline the Bill until after Lord Justice Taylor had produced his final report.

Some Conservatives were persuaded to vote for it on second reading last June only when Nicholas Ridley, then Environment Secretary, and Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, pleaded for their support on the ground that MPs would be allowed the two further chances to express their opinion.

Ministers intended to designate a chairman and members that if the Taylor report does cause the scheme to be abandoned, I doubt all the work that has been done will be wasted. The companies which have bid for the ID cards contract have done an immense amount of research, which can only benefit football supporters.

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The five companies and consortiums which have submitted tenders for the contract to install and operate the computerized technology for the membership scheme are: McDonnell Douglas, Ball, GEC, ADT Check-in and Stadium consortium.

IN BRIEF

Clubs talk with union

Officials of the Merit Table clubs have met with the Welsh Rugby Union's working party on national leagues for the first time. Glyn Tucker, the chairman of the Merit Table Organisation (MTO), said they had "very fruitful discussions".

The MTO has been at odds with the union over who should administer the leagues when they are introduced next season.

Jenkins quits

Auckland (AFP) – Ian Jenkins, the manager of the New Zealand rugby league tour of England and France last year, resigned yesterday. His final job will be to submit a report on the tour to the New Zealand Rugby League board.

Lyon start

Paris (Reuters) – The 1991 Tour de France cycle race will start in the central city of Lyon, the organizers announced yesterday. The decision breaks with the recent practice of starting the Tour outside France on alternate years.

Capacity cut

Neatton, who face a rugby union Pilkington Cup home match against Saracens on Saturday, have had the seating capacity of their wooden stand cut from 500 to 200 to conform with the Safety of Sports Grounds Act.

Cane returns

Rome (Reuters) – Italy have recalled Paolo Cane for their Davis Cup tennis tie against Sweden, the losing 1989 finalists, after resolving the dispute which initially led to his suspension.

Gower to start at No 3



Champagne welcome: Mark Nicholas, Hampshire captain, toasts David Gower's arrival

Yorkshire Leicester take the Broad approach

By Ivo Tannant

Leicestershire, reacting quickly to the departure of Sir Leonard Hutton, the new president of Yorkshire, will be given a warm welcome by the team when he makes his first appearance in his new role at Headingley.

Martin Moxon, the recently appointed captain, said: "I have never met Sir Leonard and would love him to come and talk to the players. Clearly it will be of benefit to everyone if he can pass on his knowledge."

Yorkshire have already started training for next season with sessions under Wilfred Paish at Carnegie Hall in Leeds. They are voluntary sessions because no one under contract but the players have been 100 per cent," Moxon said.

Yorkshire start indoor nets next month

END COLUMN

Concern over ocean safety

From David Miller
Auckland

The veteran Samuel Whitbread, benefactor of one of the great ocean races, arrives tomorrow for the start on February 4 of the fourth leg of the fifth round-the-world race. He needs to consider whether serious reorganization is needed before the next race.

People close to the event are alarmed by several aspects of the administration by the Royal Naval Sailing Association under the direction of Rear Admiral Charles Whitsun: a reflection of yachting's problems as it attempts to convert from amateur to professionalism. It is a transformation with which the RNSA is not perhaps wholly in tune.

Whitsun should be made aware, if he is not already so, of several factors which have the race poised uncomfortably between being a worthy adventure and an unnecessary risk. The borderline is such that questions might well be asked by the RNSA's parent body, the Royal Yachting Association, or even by the International Yacht Racing Union.

The insider's view here is that several of the 24 boats about to set off across the Roaring Forties and the Screaming Fifties, on the 6,250-mile leg round Cape Horn to Punta del Este, may be jeopardizing their safety by being under-financed.

Bucket collections are no solution

Charity fund-raising in buckets along the deckside is hardly the way to prepare for formal ocean racing yet several boats cannot afford the funds they need and, if in fact, may be hard pressed to take with them the necessary food.

It is all very well for Whitbread's co-sponsor, British Telecom, to provide the most modern computerized satellite navigation equipment for daily fixing by the race organizers of every boat's position, but if the crew is otherwise under-equipped, or gear or rigging is aged, a boat can be just as vulnerable thousands of miles from port. If engines are not serviced properly, and battery chargers fail, critical radio contact can be lost.

While the leading boats, Fisher & Paykel, Merit, Steiniger II and Rothmans, all heavily sponsored, are frustrated by the bureaux of waiting to slip moorings again, other boats are struggling to get seaworthy on time. The best boats X-ray their rigging for safety. Rothmans, with a doubt about a rudder, had a new one flown out. Not all have this scope nor, for example, the kick-down helmman's switch that instantly locks a boat's position on the computer at the moment of man-overboard.

The lengthy stopovers – amounting to five of the nine months' duration of the race – have even Rothmans gaping slightly at the operational costs of hotels and subsistence, to which the RNSA seems to have a slightly cavalier attitude. Even the course was subject to some uncertainty – pass south of Tasmania instead of through the Bass Strait – was one of a number of unilateral changes that caught skippers off guard.

Move for greater freedom of design

This moving of the goal posts, tolerated by Whitbread, is not a professional way to run a race where crew safety is at such a premium.

Such are the advances in technology that leading boats in previous races are now not even in the top 10, and there is a wish among some skippers for freedom from restrictions on design specifications, with the only mandatory conditions being those of hull structure and of the latest in safety equipment.

Too many rules in large ocean racing are not enforceable and, therefore, not worth having. In such areas as length and minimum ballast should be the two main specifications. It is in the interest of competitors beyond that to ensure that design is safe. Whitbread's investment of more than £4 million in maintaining the event should be supported by a more professional race organization. With the descent of the America's Cup into the present shambles of court procedure, the yachting world looks to the Whitbread for the maintenance of sailing's principles and efficient racing.

Games' bowls draw goes to a 23rd and final version

From David Rhys Jones, Auckland

The late arrival in Auckland of the bowls teams from India and Swaziland brought a sigh of relief from Grant Goodwin, the drawmaster at Pakuranga Combined Bowling Club. Before they arrived, he says, he had changed the draw 22 times.

First Malawi pulled out, then Northern Ireland were not permitted to send four of their seven nominated women players," he said. "Zimbabwe actually added a singles player, but Swaziland cut their entry from 14 players to eight.

"We thought for a while that Swaziland would have to withdraw from the Games altogether for financial reasons, and the Indians had a long delay in Delhi before getting their visa clearance."

A Rotorua philanthropist, it is rumoured, came to the rescue of the Swaziland team, while the team from India, a country newly admitted to the International Bowling Board, checked in at Pakuranga yesterday.

Goodwin says he started planning the draw in September.

Troubled Gomer to take stock

By Louise Taylor

Sarah Gomer, Britain's number three, is contemplating retiring from tennis because of health and financial problems. The 25-year-old, who is presently without either a sponsor or a coach, is taking a four-month break from the sport to consider her future.

After an operation to remove an ovarian cyst, followed by a bout of influenza in the autumn, Gomer returned to competition in the Australian Open last week. However the left-hander, who was Britain's No. 1 last year, and rose to No. 46 in the world rankings in September 1988, performed disastrously, slumping to a 60-6, 6-1, defeat against Sabine Appelmans, of Belgium.

Yesterday, Gomer, who is now resting at her parents' home in Torquay, said: "I was really tired in Australia and I lost a lot of confidence. I lost my timing, and it was as if I could not play any more. Until I get 100 per cent well I cannot decide whether I am going to play tennis or not."

She will have blood tests and other medical checks before considering a return to competition in domestic grass tournaments this summer but meanwhile has to find a means of coping with the bills.

"I will have to find something to do to pay the mortgage and keep me sane. I have not had a sponsor since Wimbledon and unfortunately I spent about £3,000 of my own money on competing in Australia," she said.

Gomer was still staunchly refusing yesterday to step down. Meanwhile, St-Hilaire, the coach, was reported to be on his way to the Commonwealth Games.

Judge Macerola ended up granting.

In Auckland, Charest told reporters he had been asked by a lawyer to telephone the judge in order to clarify one of the letters. He denied any intention to interfere in the coach's application which

Canadian minister in a row

From John Best, Ottawa

The judge was about to rule on an application for an injunction to allow Daniel St-Hilaire to join Canada's coaching staff at the Auckland Games. St-Hilaire claimed in court that he was unjustly discriminated against by the Canadian Track and Field Association in being kept off the coaching staff.

Opposition MPs demanded Charest's resignation after the judge, Yvan Macerola, revealed in Montreal that Charest had tried to get in touch with him. Judge Macerola told a Quebec Superior Court hearing that he had refused to talk to the Conservative minister.

Charest sent two letters to St-Hilaire's lawyers, which were subsequently filed in court, in support of the coach's application which

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